

# THE GATEWAY

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**2004**  
a year in review

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From the appointment of a new U of A president to the Cameron stabbing, from the Arcade Fire to Lindsay Lohan, from George Bush to tsunamis, **THE GATEWAY** takes a look back at the year's biggest stories and most prominent newsmakers on campus and beyond.



# Major changes on the way for Canada

Liberal reign showing signs of weakness while Alberta promises years of riches

KRISTINE OWRAM  
Managing Editor

1. June's federal election was the closest one in years, with the Liberals losing 33 seats to form Canada's first minority government since Joe Clark's Progressive Conservatives in 1979.

The weeks leading up to the vote showed the race to be a tight one, with the projected lead in the opinion polls alternating between Prime Minister Paul Martin and Conservative leader Stephen Harper. While Martin was able to maintain power, it was predicted in the days following the election that Canadians would be heading to the polls again soon. However, Martin's minority government has so far maintained the confidence of the House.

2. In December, the Supreme Court of Canada gave its non-binding opinion that the federal government could include **same-sex marriage** in the official definition of matrimony. The court also maintained religious freedoms, stating that religious officials who do not wish to perform same-sex unions should not be forced to.

Despite the controversy this move generated among many anti-same-sex marriage groups and individuals, including Opposition leader Stephen Harper and Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced that he will introduce the bill to Parliament this month. If the bill is passed, Canada will become the third country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage, along with the Netherlands and Belgium.

3. In July, Premier Ralph Klein announced that **Alberta is officially debt-free**, making it only the province in Canada currently able to make such a claim. While government supporters praised Klein for reducing the debt from \$23 billion to zero in only twelve years, critics, including



"10" Same-sex marriage moved one step closer to nation-wide approval. FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

Opposition leader Kevin Taft, said it was no big feat given the billions of dollars in oil and gas royalties that flow into provincial coffers each year.

The announcement was followed by the It's Your Future survey, in which the government asked Albertans where they thought the province's priorities should lie now that it's debt-free. Results showed healthcare and education to be Albertans' main concerns. While these issues were largely ignored by the premier during November's election campaign, he has promised to make them a main focus of his government in the coming years.

4. The collective bargaining agreement between the NHL Players' Association and team owners expired in mid-September, resulting in a lock-out of the players and a hiatus of the hockey season until a new agreement can be reached.

The **NHL lockout** is a result of increasing player salaries, which have gone up 240 per cent since 1995, a rate the league maintains is unsustainable. The NHL-season hiatus had adverse

effects on Canada's economy in 2004, hurting many businesses, such as bars, that rely on income from hockey fans in the winter months. There's no end in sight for the lockout, however, and it's likely that the 2004/05 hockey season will soon be officially cancelled.

5. In early October, Canada took possession of the **HMCS Chicoutimi**, one of four submarines that had recently been purchased from the British navy. Three days after the submarine departed Scotland for Halifax, a fire broke out in an electrical panel. The fire injured several of the men on board, including Lieutenant Chris Saunders, who died the next day en route to a hospital in Ireland.

At the time, Commodore Tyrone Pyle, commander of the Canadian Fleet Atlantic, said human error must be to blame, as the submarine had recently undergone a five-year, multi-million dollar refit. A later investigation proved that the British refit didn't fix all the problems onboard the sub, including improperly sealed electrical connectors which resulted in the fire.

## Legal battles and mudslinging haunts Canada's newsmakers throughout 2004

CORANNA PRESTON  
Senior News Editor

1. Two years after his initial arrest in the United States and subsequent deportation to Syria, Canadian citizen **Maher Arar** continued his legal battles.

Arar sued the American government seeking financial compensation and an admission of wrongdoing. Meanwhile, Anne McLellan, federal public safety minister, launched a public inquiry into the Canadian government's possible assistance with Arar's deportation.

As a result, many reports regarding the case were declassified but heavily censored and some reports had whole pages blacked out. Finally, in December, Arar accused the Canadian government of censoring information that favoured him. Lawyers for the inquiry have vowed to go to the Federal Court of Canada to get the blacked-out material released.

2. The infamous **Conrad Black** bore the brunt of scathing criticisms this year and was hit with lawsuits, counter-suits and accusations of fraud.

His company, Hollinger Inc., was once the third-largest newspaper publisher in the world. But by the end of the year Black had resigned as the chairman of Hollinger Inc. and the US

Securities and Exchange Commission had laid a civil fraud suit on Black and Chief Operating Officer David Radler for improperly diverting tens of millions of dollars from Hollinger International.

3. **Paul Martin** was elected Canada's prime minister on 28 June, 2004, but Martin lost the stronghold Christian vote, helping to bring to only grasp a minority government.

Since then he has been embroiled in the ongoing sponsorship scandal which alleges that over \$100 million was illegitimately spent on communications agencies during Martin's time as finance minister. And now Martin's new finance minister has been accused of underestimating the national surplus in the 2004 budget, where he predicted it to be \$5.5 billion.

But it hasn't been all scandal for the new PM. The US has promised to reopen its borders to Canadian beef. In addition, Martin pledged he would not sign a document that would lead to the weaponization of space.

4. Some laughed and others grumbled in disgust, but **Carolyn Parrish** kept up with her anti-American antics this year until Prime Minister Paul Martin had no choice but to dismiss her from the Liberal Caucus. It all started when Parrish was speak-

ing with reporters on Canada's diplomacy regarding the invasion of Iraq. After most of the cameras were turned off, she said, "Damn Americans. ... I hate those bastards." She later apologized but that was only the beginning. She went on to call her party's election campaign a "comedy of errors," and called the US-led "Coalition of the Willing" the "Coalition of Idiots."

The final hurrah which resulted in her firing was her appearance on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, where she stomped on a George W Bush doll and declared she had no loyalty to the Liberal team.

5. Canada lost one of its most verbose and patriotic icons this year with the death of **Pierre Berton** in November.

According to CBC, Berton claimed he had 200 000 words in him per year, and he certainly showed that. He was the author of over 50 books and a journalist with an astounding record. At 21, he worked at the *Vancouver Sun* as the youngest city editor to work at a daily newspaper. He was also the managing editor of Maclean's magazine and hosted several shows for CBC.

One of Berton's last TV appearances was on Rick Mercer's *Monday Report*, where he instructed a young man on how to role a joint. Berton was 84 when he died of heart failure in Toronto on 30 November.



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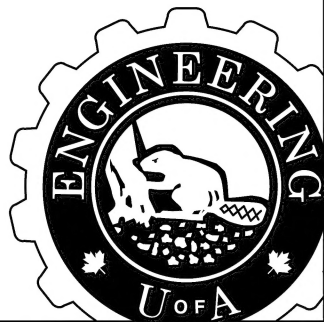
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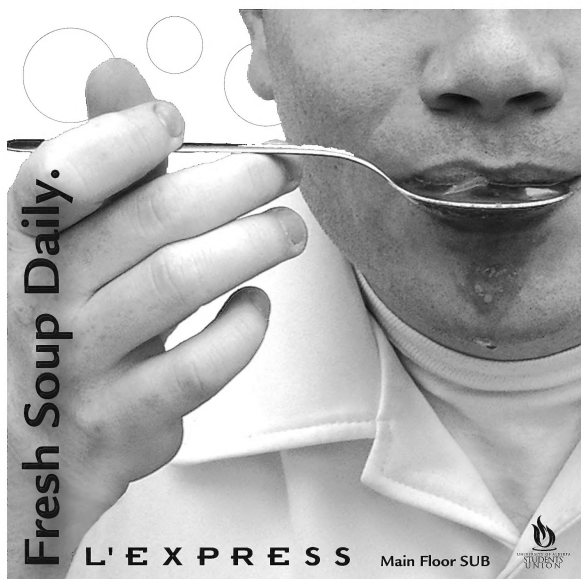
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## Health research rounds out the top five in science

CARLTON CRAWSHAW  
News Editor

1. In their quest to help disabled patients regain muscle control, doctors Doug Weber, Richard Stein and Arthur Prochazka of the University of Alberta's Centre for Neuroscience developed a **new way of electrically stimulating muscles** with internal sensors.

The team developed a wristband with electrodes and an accompanying headband to help stroke patients unclench their hands and use them to grab and move things. While the technology is still in its early stages, it may eventually be mass produced to help stroke-victims regain independence.

2. University of Alberta biological science professor Dr Michael Deyholos began work developing **landmine-detecting plants**. The aim of the research is to genetically alter plants in such a way that they physically change in the presence of chemicals released into the ground by buried landmines. These physical cues could include a change in the colour of the flower or leaf, and could allow people in war-torn communities to steer clear of landmines which continue to cost people their limbs and lives even decades after armed conflict. The research is being funded by an agency of the Department of National Defence.

3. A study conducted by a U of A researcher discovered that natural health product **Cold-FX**—an immune booster developed by a U of A spin-off company—helps prevent the common cold. The ginseng-based natural product became one of the first in Canada to undergo extensive scientific testing.

4. This summer, **U of A researchers discovered a cause of heart disease in newborns**. Dr Martin Somerville and his team discovered a gene that plays an important role in heart formation. The absence of this gene leads to the absence of a protein (Connexin40) which plays a role in the development of the fetal heart. Because of this discovery, doctors will now be able to better predict heart defects in newborns, or at least warn of the risk.

5. Diabetes researcher Dr Greg Korbutt participated in a research collaboration with the University of Toronto that discovered pancreatic stem cells in mice. Using these stem cells, researchers were able to produce both neurons and **insulin-producing cells** from stem cells in the pancreases of mice. This discovery may provide researchers with a new source of pancreatic islet cells for transplantation in diabetics, whose own islet cells do not produce proper amounts of insulin for the digestion of sugar.

Korbutt is a member of the research group at the U of A responsible for developing the Edmonton Protocol—an internationally recognized technique for transplanting islet cells into diabetics. The technique has allowed diabetics to manage their blood-sugar levels more easily, and with less dependence on insulin injections.

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed  
by Nicole Tomlinson and  
Hanna Nash

2004 was a year full of interesting news stories.

What do you think  
were the top three news  
stories of 2004?



Monica Franco  
Science III

I think, first of all, Bush's re-election. I never thought that Americans would re-elect that guy. [Secondly], the tsunami—that was really, really bad. And the third one, for us at the U of A, [was] the raising of tuition for international students.



Kirk Kaminsky  
Education  
after-degree

Unfortunately, the Bush election. [Secondly] weather stories in general, across the globe—hurricanes, tsunamis, droughts, and flood conditions for a second one. And, unfortunately, the Iraq war in general.



Igor Malignic  
Engineering II

Definitely Iraq. [Also] the tsunami, for sure. And the election for [President] George W Bush.



Derek Kwamr  
Engineering III

The earthquake. The election would have to be another one. And also the storms in Manitoba and the Maritimes.

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# Fights for free and fair elections shadowed by catastrophic death tolls

International news continued to attract close attention in 2004 with war, natural disasters, elections, and scandal

TASNEEM KARBANI  
News Writer

1. As the year 2004 was coming to an end, the world witnessed one of the worst natural disasters recorded in recent history. Deadly **tsunami** waves in South Asia killed more than 164 000 people in 13 countries. Some aid organizations predict that number could double with the onset of disease.

Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India were the hardest hit. But Thailand, Malaysia, and Myanmar also suffered high death tolls, and the destructive waves even caused damage as far as East Africa in Kenya, Tanzania and Somalia.

Indonesia has confirmed the deaths of more than 104 000, while Sri Lanka has confirmed 30 718. Millions of others are missing, homeless, or orphaned. The misery in South Asia has evoked a compassionate response from millions with humanitarian aid being received from all corners of the world. The tragedy has brought people of various faiths together for a common cause.

Already donations have reached over \$4 billion US, but the United Nations has stated they need \$1.7 billion US more.

2. The war in Iraq worsened in 2004 with more bloodshed and a torture scandal. The uprising of Iraqis in Fallujah against the occupation by US forces and the **Abu Ghraib** scandal occurred amid discussions of national elections for January 2005.

The several thousand Iraqis detained in the Abu Ghraib prison included men, women and teenagers who were arrested during random

military sweeps. The detainees were tortured, raped, and photographed in humiliating poses by US soldiers. On 28 April, 2004 the world was outraged when the images of the abuses were released by the New York Times. The upcoming elections have intensified the suicide bombings and killings of Iraqi policemen and political leaders.

3. In November 2004, President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry competed in a very closely followed **US presidential election**. Campaign issues included the war on terrorism, the Iraq war, same-sex marriage, healthcare, tax cuts and the economy.

Bush accused Kerry of not having a firm stance on Iraq, while Kerry criticized Bush's poor management of the war in Iraq and war on terrorism. While the majority of the world may have supported Kerry, the Americans re-elected Bush because of his position on same-sex marriage and abortion. Unlike the 2000 election, Bush won both the popular vote and the Electoral College.

4. In November, the results of the **Ukrainian presidential election** brought attention to the democratic practices in Ukraine. Viktor Yushchenko, the pro-Western candidate and former prime minister, was pitted against Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma's chosen successor, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

The campaign was near deadly for Yushchenko, who was hospitalized for some time in September after he was poisoned with dioxins in what seems to have been an assassination



**ORANGE REVOLUTION** Yushchenko supporters huddle together protesting the highly-criticized presidential election.

attempt.

In the 21 November election, Yanukovich was said to have claimed 49.5 per cent of the vote, while Yushchenko received 46.5 per cent. International observers viewed the election as fraudulent.

Ukraine's Supreme Court annulled the election results and called for a re-election. The result of the 26 December election showed Yushchenko as victorious, although Yanukovich is attempting to challenge the decision in court.

Many Albertans, along with other

foreign observers, helped supervise the re-election process.

5. Sudan's **Darfur crisis** intensified in 2004, and the UN branded it the "world's worst humanitarian disaster."

Tension between Arab and black farmers over land and grazing rights erupted in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The rebel groups, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked Sudanese government property and accused the government of

favouring Sudan's Arab population at the expense of the black population in Darfur. As a result, the Sudanese government supported the Janjaweed (Arab militia) in putting down the rebel groups.

The Janjaweed have attacked Darfur's black population, murdering the men, raping the women, and stealing. As of October, the actions of the Janjaweed resulted in the deaths of 70 000 and the displacement of 1.5 million.

Peace talks and ceasefires were attempted but all were short lived or immediately violated.

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# Eastern leaders dominate international headlines in 2004

George W Bush dabbled in many international activities while the two Viktoros fought for dominance in Ukraine

ERIK JACOBS  
COSANNA PRESTON  
News Writers

1. US president **George W. Bush**, as the most powerful person in the most powerful country, continued to make headlines in 2004 and continued to make his presence felt at home and abroad. A highly controversial leader nationally and especially internationally, Bush had the support where it counted: he became the first US president to be elected with a majority of the popular vote since his father in 1988.

But his presence was felt long before the November election. He began the year accused of forcing the Haitian president out of office and assisting in a coup d'état but quickly put that behind him, only to be embroiled in another international scandal—Abu Ghraib prison—the location of numer-

ous photographed tortures of Iraqis by American soldiers. Bush was quickly singled out as their commander-in-chief, as he was again when the occupation of Iraq continued to spiral into chaos and the number of dead American soldiers topped 1000.

However, with all the scandals surrounding his name, Bush maintained his promise in 2004 and kept the United States safe from terrorist attacks, an important step for a nation leading a war on terror.

2. Heir-apparent **Viktor Yanukovich** and opposition leader **Viktor Yushchenko** squared off in the fall of 2004 in the Ukrainian elections. Following an election and runoff, Yanukovich, the current prime minister also sporting support from the Russian Kremlin, declared victory by a mere three per cent. However, exit polls showed Yushchenko as the clear winner.

This development, combined with allegations of electoral misconduct, spurred demonstrations the likes of which had not been seen in that part of the world since the fall of the Soviet Union. Yushchenko's supporters, mainly in the west of the country, demanded a revote.

Meanwhile, Yanukovich's eastern support base threatened to secede if he was not declared the victor. The Orange Revolution, as Yushchenko's supporters were soon termed (so called because it was Yushchenko's campaign colour), attracted strong support in the West. In the end, they proved victorious: a re-vote was held on 26 December and was won handsily by Yushchenko. However, tensions

between the east and west of Ukraine remain high.

3. **Yasser Arafat** provoked both sadness and relief with his passing at the age of 75. After over a month of false death reports and various rumours about his condition and location, Arafat was pronounced dead at 3:30pm on 11 November in a French hospital.

In the days following his death rumours surfaced about a possible poisoning, but nothing was ever confirmed. As predicted, Israel refused to allow Arafat to be buried in the holy city of Jerusalem. Instead, his body was laid to rest in Ramallah where he lived in a compound, which in recent years had become his prison as dictated by Israel.

To Palestinians and other Arabs, his death was seen as the passing of a hero. To Israelis and American neo-conservatives, it was the passing of a terrorist and a murderer, as well as the removal of the primary obstacle to peace in the Middle East. It remains to be seen if Arafat's successor, Mahmoud Abbas, will succeed where Arafat failed in making peace with Israel.

4. This year also saw the emergence of **Muqtada al-Sadr** as the best-known figure in the Iraqi insurgency against the US occupation. The son of Shiite cleric Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr, who was executed under Saddam Hussein, al-Sadr became the leader of the Mahdi army in early 2004.

Promoting strict adherence to Islamic values, he strongly opposes the American occupation and fights with the support of many impoverished suburban Iraqis.



COURTESY OF FNORD SYSTEMS  
**PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?** Yasser Arafat's passing brings a renewed hope.

Following the closure of his newspaper, al-Sadr led a revolt against the US in the southern city of Najaf in April. Despite an early June truce, hostilities again erupted in August, resulting in a siege by US marines of the Imam Ali mosque in Najaf. Fighting also broke out in Sadr City a slum of Baghdad.

Fighting in Najaf and Sadr City has since died down, but al-Sadr remains a force to be reckoned with in some sectors of Iraq's Shiite community and has even threatened to act on behalf of Palestinian extremist groups claiming Americans are occupying the most sacred Muslim ground.

5. Installed as interim leader by the US in December 2001 and confirmed

the following June by the Loya Jirga, the collective of Afghanistan's tribal elders, **Hamid Karzai** was officially elected president of Afghanistan in a 9 October, 2004 election with 55 per cent of the vote. Karzai was officially sworn in on 7 December. Despite his election victory, Karzai has little control outside Kabul, and remains dependent on the US forces for his personal security.

Rival warlords control many of the Afghan provinces, leaving the country open to tribal warfare, and Karzai has been unable to crack down on the growing production and trade of opium and heroin. Presently Afghanistan supplies 80 per cent of the world's opium.



COURTESY OF THE UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS  
**Viktor Yushchenko, pre-poisoning.**



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# OPINION

opinion@gateway.alberta.ca • tuesday, 11 january, 2005

## Protestors need to choose their battles

FOR ALL THE FIGHTING we people get ourselves into—from wars to schoolyard scraps over domination of the monkey bars—it's just as natural for us to want to avoid violence as it is to spur it on. Call it the innate instinct to save yourself from anything from minor abrasions to total annihilation. We pick our fights, if not carefully, then at least with a shred of consideration—we fight for a reason.

And when it comes to reasons, there's something awfully appealing about having some cause smacking of nobility to back your crusade *du jour*. We soldier on for our rights, for our freedoms. Human beings—the darling little clichés that they are—will stop at no end to feel secure in their right to live according to their individual beliefs.

For the past few weeks, several groups in Britain have been battling for what they see as a noble cause: the protection of their right to faith. Seems like a sympathetic cause, I suppose—you know, freedom being, from what I understand, pretty awesome and all. Only trouble is, the crusaders in question aren't technically having their rights threatened at all, and in fact are being rather disrespectful of everyone else's rights while they're going about "protecting" things.

You see, these groups aren't going through any sort of censure as insidious as, say, having the right to faith constitutionally revoked, or even challenged, for that matter. Actually, there's this program that the BBC2 was scheduled to air—*Jerry Springer: The Opera*, in fact, which screened this past Saturday night to record audiences. The network issued a warning out of consideration for sensitive viewers long before the broadcast, informing the public that the show contains plenty of salty vocabulary and a few possibly offensive portrayals of Christian figures. The result was a torrent of dissent from religious groups, Christian and otherwise—all over what essentially comes down to their right to not watch a TV program, a right which they can all-too-obviously exercise by changing the channel on their "tellyes."

To be fair, there's nothing at all the matter with their protest—they certainly should have the right to make their opinions heard. I mean, their case would have been a bit more understandable had they respected everyone else's right to make up their own minds about the show and uphold their own beliefs, but there's nothing wrong with a peaceful public demonstration. It's just that respectfully dissenting and waving the old placard—that is, respecting their own and others' rights—was a bit too constructive for their purposes. According to a 10 January article from the *Daily Telegraph*, a lobby group called Christian Voice published the home addresses of 15 BBC executives and producers. Some of these individuals, the article explained, were subjected to telephone harassment and threats regarding the airing of the program.

Short of making some sort of conclusion about the sheer irony of it all and crying to the heavens, asking why these people would resort to technically uncharacteristically Christian threats of "bloodshed" (as quoted from the *Telegraph*) to preserve their faith, it's really much more irritating to think of the dedication that's gone into fighting this battle. It's a battle that is ongoing, with a lawsuit charging the BBC and the West End Theatre Company for blasphemy about to be launched, according to the *Telegraph*; a battle over what is essentially just a trashy morality play.

Considering the broadcast of the opera has received mixed reviews at best, perhaps these protesters can count as a victory for good taste on some level. But, considering their tactics, which disavow the rights and freedoms of others, this was a battle lost from the start.

LEAH COLLINS  
Entertainment Editor

## So long, Lois Hole

FOR THOSE OF YOU wishing to pay respects to one of the finest Albertans ever to hug anything that moved, there is a book of condolences ripe for the signing in the foyer of the Old Arts Building. It will be there today and tomorrow, from 8:30am to 4:30pm, and I can't think of a person more deserving of a nice tribute than our dearly departed lieutenant-governor.

DAVID BERRY  
Opinion Editor

KRYSTA MCLENNON  
Nursing III



IN LOVING  
MEMORY  
LOIS HOLE  
1933 - 2005

## LETTERS

### Transformer blowjob went too far

While I can appreciate that your joke issue is supposed to be irreverent and generally a little risqué, I think I speak for a lot of people when I say that a picture of two characters from the *Transformers* cartoon engaging in oral sex is crossing the line into bad taste (editorial cartoon, 7 December, 2004).

I mean, honestly, a picture of this explicit nature, even if it is a cartoon, has no place in what is ostensibly supposed to be a satirical job at yourselves. An excess of penis jokes is one thing, but graphic depictions of sexual acts in a newspaper that can be readily picked up and read by any member of the community—especially impressionable teenagers, given that there are several junior- and senior-high schools in the immediate University and Whyte Avenue area—is not only grossly irresponsible, but also entirely lacking in taste.

I can only hope for your sake that this was the work of some third party and not the waste of the talents of one of your volunteers. And for the sake of all of us, next time you do a *Getaway*, clean up your act.

### Great job on the *Getaway*, Gateway

I haven't been around the University for very long, but I just wanted to thank you guys for the great joke issue you put out. It was one of the funniest things I've read in a long time, and it certainly made my between-class breaks go by a lot quicker. I've been reading it all over the holidays, too, so I just wanted to thank you guys and tell you to keep up the good work!

JENNIFER VOLCKER  
Science I

### What's the big deal about Lois Hole, anyway?

I realize Lois Hole was a fairly nice lady and all, but honestly, do you think we can store down the gushing a little? Sure she was apparently the "queen of hugs," and also evidently never had a bad thought about anything, but does this really warrant coverage on the front page of every newspaper in the province and a solid weekend of quite possibly every person who ever met her talking about how nice she was and how much she liked hugs?

Look, she was a mildly nice woman who happened to get incredibly rich through gardening and then held a series of really pointless positions. In case you haven't noticed, the lieutenant-governor could have pretty

much been one of the potted plants sold at Hole's Greenhouses and it would have been about as effective, to say nothing of how "useful" the position of University Chancellor is.

I suppose if there was nothing else going on in the world, this might warrant a nice human-interest story, or a sizeable obituary, but in case you've forgotten, there was a little tsunami in Asia a little while ago, and some people died there, too. And I'm sure a lot of those people liked hugs.

I'm sure she was nice, but there are more important things going on in this world than a nice elderly lady passing away and I think it's time we remembered those and let Lois Hole rest.

MARTIN TUTTON  
Arts II

SAMANTHA BENTZ  
Physical Education IV

### There was more to Lois Hole than hugs

When I heard about the Honourable Lois Hole's death the other day, I took a few quiet moments to reflect on what her life meant to us as Albertans. She was an extraordinarily successful local businesswoman and author, an advocate for education and community involvement, and arguably the best chancellor this University ever had.

However, you wouldn't get the impression that any of this mattered very much by watching or reading mainstream news these

past few days. In fact, the only thing that people universally seem to remember about Mrs Hole is the fact that she liked hugging people. Take, for example, the *National Post*'s January headline, "Albertans embraced the queen of hugs." Almost every other article written on the lieutenant-governor's death has made out her penchant for hugging people to be one of the most important aspects of her life.

Lois Hole did a lot more for our province than just giving Alberta citizens the "yes feeling" with hugs. Let's recognize her as a wonderful woman who fought for what she believed was right, not as some sort of ridiculous child-scaring sports mascot out to hug the world.

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to [managing@getaway.alberta.ca](mailto:managing@getaway.alberta.ca).

The *Getaway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. Wishing you all the best in the new year. Seriously. No joke.



# Might as well cut the English program—I never used it anyway



DAVID BERRY

in a meaningful, intelligent way why it is you're using those equations the way you are, you might as well be doodling rocket ships on McDonald's wrappers.

**Still, though, you hardly need to be deeply engrossed in late-19th-century British literature to realize that the English part of all your degrees is essentially as important, if not more so, than whatever your particular field of study happens to be.**

Not too many of you use English, right? I mean, generally speaking, when you're trying to communicate with someone, you tend to use something other than English, or for that matter any established, standardized language. As my experience at university has taught me, most of us, save for the unfortunate few who are actually pursuing English as a subject of study, tend to communicate using calculus, or occasionally organic chemistry equations, or even in certain instances musical instruments, depending, of course, on our area of study.

Which is exactly why it makes perfect sense for the University to be considering removing or drastically diminishing the English requirement portion of undergraduate degrees. We don't need no education, at least not in terms of our fundamental means of communicating with others around us.

Okay, first off, I should say that I am an English student, so I'm obviously a little bit biased on any issue regarding my beloved little department. Still, though, you hardly need to be deeply engrossed in late-19th-century British literature to realize that the English part of all your degrees is essentially as important, if not more so, than whatever your particular field of study happens to be. You can be the world's most brilliant astrophysicist, but if you can't actually explain to people

And, given that most of us aren't exactly rocket scientists, we'll likely have an even greater need for effective—at the very least—communication skills, most of which are taught to us at the university level by those little English courses we have. Or, quite likely in the next little while, used to have. So why, exactly, do we want to get rid of this, especially when, according to one of the directors of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, "Employers are looking for graduates with strong communication skills"? Whimsy?

Now, to be fair, the original proposal being discussed is merely to cut the English requirement to one semester of English instead of two, and though even that will likely cause enough problems—anyone remem-

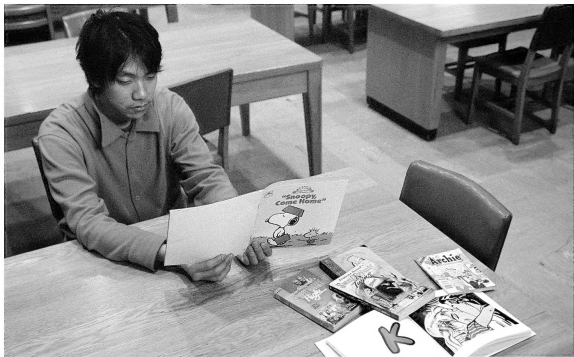


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: SARAH CHUNG

**READING, WRITING, NO ARITHMETIC** Believe it or not, you'll likely need to be able to read more than comics to get by.

ber much of anything they took in first semester of first year, including those of you who just finished it—it's better than eliminating it entirely. Still, though, from the way these people are talking, it sounds like only a matter of time before any English requirement is replaced by some technical-writing equivalent, if that. After all, according to English department chair Garret Epp, "Some folks don't think it's entirely proper to be educated in an English course when they really need to write a psychology paper or a lab report or business letters."

Forgive me for being overly blunt here, but if you lack the necessary critical and abstract thinking skills for taking what you learn about essay

writing in an English course and applying it to, say, a lab report, then you really don't deserve a university degree. It's all the same grammar, in case you haven't noticed, and if slightly different forms of writing are tripping you up that much, might I suggest one of our fine technical institutions? Mechanics rarely do lab reports.

And really, the fact that the skills you might learn in any given class don't obviously, directly apply to your particular degree is hardly a good reason to say you shouldn't have to take the class, especially when it's something as basic as English. Really, I doubt I'll ever be using organic chemistry to dissect the works of the romantic poets, but I sure as hell have

to take that class to finish my degree. And I'm okay with that, because I didn't come here to be turned into some kind of Shakespeare-spewing automaton with absolutely no conception of anything outside novels; as it turns out, a broad education can actually turn you into a decent person with knowledge beyond your immediate nose.

Of course, who am I kidding? University has long stopped being about acquiring knowledge or rounding yourself out and has firmly transformed itself into a four-year generalized job-training program. And really, none of our future employers are going to want us to be able to communicate. At least not in English.



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**Dates:** January 20 – February 17, 2005  
(Thursdays) 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  
**Register by:** Monday, January 17, 2005

#### Social Anxiety and Shyness Group



**Facilitators:** Dr. Kim Maertz, C. Psych.  
& Dr. Michaela Kadambi, C. Psych.  
**Dates:** January 26 – March 23, 2005  
(Wednesdays) 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
**Register By:** Friday, January 21, 2005

#### Balancing Your Needs With Those of Others



**Facilitator:** Dr. Howard Saslove, C. Psych.  
**Dates:** Friday, March 18, 2005  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
**Register By:** Tuesday, March 15, 2005

#### The Graduate Student Support & Strategy Group (GS\_G)



**Facilitator:** Dr. Cristelle Audet, C. Psych.  
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# Premarital sex is more than pleasure



TIM  
PEPPEN

Having sex before marriage is, as I'm sure you are all aware, probably the worst sin in existence, sort of baking holiday fruitcake or betraying Jesus. So we've all been told, at least.

I, however, being the heathen bastard that I am, wish to propose a different view. I believe not only that premarital sex should carry with it no baggage of shame or remorse, but that a goodly amount of premarital sex, with a single partner or with several—not necessarily at the same time—is essential to the creation of stable, meaningful unions in the modern world.

There are two ways in which durable partnerships may be formed. The first incredibly successful way is for one partner to dominate the other in most aspects, thereby ensuring effective and unambiguous decision making, and a harmony of sorts. Arranged marriages, polygamous unions and, until recently, consensual marriages all had this feature as part of their foundation.

However, with the rise of feminism, and with it something approximating equal rights for women, it is no longer feasible for a man to assume so dominant a role. The stability that was imparted to marriage by negating the thoughts, freedoms and powers of women is now seen as insufficient justification for their continued subjugation.

As a consequence, most marriages have now taken the form of relatively equal partnerships, ostensibly based upon shared values and beliefs, and

"I believe not only that premarital sex should carry with it no baggage of shame or remorse, but that a goodly amount of premarital sex, with a single partner or with several—not necessarily at the same time—is essential to the creation of stable, meaningful unions in the modern world."

loosely regulated by social and economic status. These form the second type of durable partnership, and have the potential to be incredibly fulfilling and long-lasting. However, such marriages, because they involve a multiplicity of important contributing factors by definition, often end in failure because one (or a few) of these factors is not in accord. When one party cannot simply supersede the desires or opinions of another, such discords can eventually become so serious that both parties accept the differences as irreconcilable, and seek the termination of the partnership.

So, while other forms of marriage may be more stable, they are seen as being repressive or immoral because of the subjugation assumed in their structure. Yet free and consensual marriages, because of their requirements for broad compatibility, are often very fickle. What, then, is to be done?

The answer, of course, lies not in a return to patriarchy, nor in resignation. The answer lies in trying to ensure depth of knowledge and experience in all people, and by encouraging permanent unions only between those who have compared their beliefs, habits and aspirations and feel that they're not only satisfactory at present, but complementary into the future.

And so, after a long preamble, we encounter the meat of this article: the married sex life, rivalled only by financial concerns, is one of the most significant determinants of a marriage's lasting power. The obvious conclu-

sion that can now be drawn is that in order for most consensual marriages to be successful, both partners must know—in detail—the characteristics of their partner's sexual appetites.

Setting aside these formal considerations, there are other reasons why people should have sex before they're married. Foremost is that virgins are abysmally incompetent lovers. Instead of enjoying a wedding night of untold sensual pleasures, as you were promised when young and foolish, a virgin wife is more likely to be accidentally poked in the ass before being painfully deflowered while her virgin husband performs with as much proficiency and stamina as a squirrel on uppers.

Still more sinister, it is likely that if a couple has indeed managed to control their natural impulses until married, their view of their bodies and intercourse itself have been so mangled and laden with guilt that they are likely always to be fettered with shame, and so will never truly have a free and gratifying sex life. The consequences of such sexual repression are subtle and far-reaching, permeating many other aspects of life and tainting them with fear and intolerance.

The consequences of foolish sexual behaviour are not to be made light of, yet the solution, as with all things, does not lie in the obstinate denial of natural impulses. The harms generated by shame-based morality and sexual suppression vastly outweigh the entirely preventable repercussions of sex. So, as the man says: get fuckin'.

# 'Extreme' faith becoming more mainstream



JAMES  
ELFORD

Some people think that the greatest evil unleashed by Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden was pain, suffering, or some other broad category of human misery. They're wrong. It was a tyrannousous rex.

At least that's the operating premise behind the tinuous room at the Kentucky Museum of Creation—the latest in a series of metaphorical wooden stakes being driven into the heart of that horrible beast called rationality. You know, the thing that helped bring you toilet paper and all sorts of other modern wonders.

Working hard to refute science and all its empirical data with animatronics designed by the one-time head of design at Universal Studios, the museum's operators have prepped a room that will definitively show how awesome it is to watch cave people run from those "thundering lizards." Oh, and presumably wipe away any questions you might have about creationism with a stroke of Hollywood pizzazz.

Of course, what controversial museum would be without controversial exhibits that blame AIDS on homosexuals and claims that teaching evolution led to the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School? If only they had taught creationism instead of small-arms fire in second period.

Despite my clear dislike of their views, however, I would never suggest that the creationists shouldn't believe this stuff. People can believe whatever crazy shit they want to believe. They could believe that the only two people on this earth are Joe Piscopo and a dog named Lord Tittlebaum and that would be fine with me. It might make small talk over coffee awkward, but I don't really care that much.

**For at least three nights in a row last week, MSNBC's *Scarborough Country*—a low-rent right-wing answer to Fox—has spent at least some time seriously debating whether the tsunami was the act of an angry god.**

It is unfortunate, however, that they spent \$25 million US on this unintentionally hilarious attack on secularism. Maybe they could have spent it on something that was a little bit less of a right-wing caricature fantasy, and a little more useful—like helping the poor, or buying small children expensive metal armour and forcing them to fight for blood and glory.

But really, it's just a sign of the times. Maybe 50 years ago such a facility would have been restricted to a shack next to a gas station on a deserted

rural highway. Now, such extreme personal faith is gaining more and more support as increasing numbers rebel against the uncertainty of rational thought and embrace the warm mental hug that is the black-and-white worldview of faith. It's even started to appear—in some form—on the main cable-network news stations.

For at least three nights in a row last week, MSNBC's *Scarborough Country*—a low-rent right-wing answer to Fox—has spent at least some time seriously debating whether the tsunami was the act of an angry god. Angry at what? Well, guys and liberals in the US, or maybe Muslims, or possibly the fact that he spent all that time working on man and he still forgot to remove the vestigial organs when he was done. Not only is this kind of reasoning incredibly self-centred—ie, God killed all those people in Indonesia because San Francisco exists—but it's best suited for when humans still struggled not be covered in filth.

If this view is true, why did we ever develop a legal system that went beyond trial by ordeal? Such an activist god would certainly know the truth better than a mere mortal judge. If God is willing to create an earthquake/tsunami, then why isn't God also willing to be the operative measure of how we determine guilt and punishment in our society? Oh sure, science could easily explain why placing hands in boiling water and then wrapping them in filthy rags results in infection, but why shouldn't we believe it's just God revealing our guilt? Actually, pretend I didn't write any of that. I don't want to give them any ideas.

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JAMES  
STORRIE

There were a few things I liked seeing when I got back to campus last week: a few familiar faces, a few unfamiliar-but-pretty faces. What made me happiest of all, however, were the signs plastered all over SUB: open 24/7 for the winter season.

It's about time.

I'm not sure how often most SUB types actually go outside, but as someone who does on a fairly regular basis—to get to things like food, my classes, and my house—one thing I have noticed is that this city gets cold. I can distinctly remember being caught on campus at around two in the morning several times last year, with my hands nearly frosted and my tongue in severe peril of being frozen to a SUB window as I drooled over its delicious, inaccessible warmth. SUB was a giant, smug fortress, taunting me with its comfortable corners, lack of interior wind chill and inestimably useful toilet facilities.

Ironically enough, having SUB open at night was a contentious issue during the SU elections, one which was largely ridiculed. The operating costs, they said, would be enormous. The entire University would collapse around such a financial black hole, warping the entire continuum of the city with the sheer magnitude of its incalculable maintenance bills.

Indeed, such increased costs did boggle the mind. "Having the lights on a bit longer," "hiring an extra janitor and maybe a security guard," and "maybe having Cram Dunk open a bit longer so I could get some god-damned coffee without walking all the way over to Mac's in negative-a-billion



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: NICK WIEBE

**WORKING HARD** With SUB open late, cram sessions just got a bit easier.

wind chill" do seem like they might add up, in ways exponentially outstripping other low-cost initiatives such as the athletes' Legacy Fund. It seemed to many that the increased costs would be outright unfair: unlike said Legacy Fund, which essentially benefited everyone on campus by ensuring we would never be short of sweet, delicious sports games, keeping SUB open late would only benefit students who had late-night classes, or students who had early morning classes, or students who worked night shifts, or students who liked to go to RATT or the Powerplant, or perhaps a handful of other irrelevant special interest groups. After all, everyone lives within a few minutes of campus or at least has a car, right?

As a member of one of these fringe groups, though, I must confess my bias: this very piece would not have been penned were it not for SUB's all-night computer lab in the basement, nor would several of my term papers. Perhaps this is less of a thank you to the SU, despite their keen ability to shoot down a good idea and then implement it later anyway. This is a thank you to those students on campus now paying exorbitant fees to safeguard not only the freedom to not be frozen and dead, but the ability to even take a nap now and then. It's a cold, cold night in Edmonton, but thanks to your generosity, vigilance and comfortable communal couches, some of us can sleep easy. Thank you.

JARED  
MILNE

If there was ever a reason to be disgusted with the current state of Canadian politics, then a review of 2004's significant events provides it. Where to start?

First, Jean Chrétien's sponsorship scandal used fraud and kickbacks to try and keep Québec in Canada, and Paul Martin was left to deal with the fallout. The Canadian navy bought a second-hand submarine that killed one of our national sons. Carolyn Parrish and Paul Martin both ended up with egg on their faces over Parrish's antics on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and her subsequent elimination from caucus. Immigration Minister Judy Sgro was caught in a hurid scandal over her fast-tracking a stripper that worked on her election campaign.

Premier Klein wanted to run a "boring" campaign, and then Alberta voters gave him a rude awakening. The federal Conservative Party accused the Liberals of supporting child pornography during the federal election campaign. That same election saw the Liberals having to deal with a minority government—one that nearly collapsed over amendments to the Speech from the

"Recent federal governments have had great ministers, and certain provincial premiers seem to do well, but there just hasn't been a great leader for the country as a whole since Trudeau retired. The likes of Trudeau, Stanfield and Douglas have been replaced with the likes of Martin and Harper."

Throne. And despite the dislike most Canadians feel for the Bush administration, Paul Martin has not ruled out joining Bush's lunatic missile-defense plan. On top of all this, voter turnout fell to a mere 61 per cent in the federal election, one of the lowest totals since Confederation.

Normally I hate cynicism, but it's hard not to feel appalled by the antics of federal and provincial politicians in 2004. These sorts of actions leave people embarrassed, disillusioned, and fed up with mainstream political parties. Recent federal governments have had great ministers, and certain provincial premiers seem to do well, but there just hasn't been a great leader for the country as a whole since Trudeau retired. The likes of Trudeau, Stanfield and Douglas have been replaced with the likes of Martin and Harper.

That said, however, one should look at the few bright spots of 2004 in this respect. Led by BC, several provinces are now looking at democratic reform and proportional representation. As in the past, when provinces bring about reforms that work, the federal government can be pressured to adopt similar

changes. Who knows, Western Canada might actually get a fairer shake when it comes to federal election results.

As well, our current minority government is hardly a bad thing. We don't want another election right now, and neither do the politicians. The Liberals must do whatever they can to avoid a non-confidence vote, which means they have to listen more closely to other parties, their own dissenters, and us, the voters. Minority governments can also be very productive—the Trudeau and Pearson minorities passed some of the best legislation anyone could ask for.

And finally, while the mainstream parties continue to fester, more progressive movements continue to grow. For instance, [www.vivecanada.ca](http://www.vivecanada.ca) has now grown to over 1000 members, and the Green Party got more than four per cent of the popular vote in the last federal election. If none of the current political parties are to a voter's taste, it might be worth looking at some of the smaller movements and groups and seeing if they're to your liking. It might help get some of the awful taste of 2004's politics out of your mouth.



# A look back at the crazy year that was 2005

Coming war on Australia, attempted assassination of Klein ruled headlines



RAMON  
OSTAD

Well, 2005 has certainly been a crazy year, hasn't it? Then again, I guess surfing into it with a tsunami set off a wave of weirdness. Now, I don't usually like to dwell on the past—mostly because it's filled with insecurity and crippling self-doubt—but in 2K5, there was a lot to talk about. I don't have the space to list them all, but I will touch on what I thought were the biggest stories of the year.

Of course, there were the yearly staples: liberals hating conservatives for wanting to spend money on cool things like NASCAR and shotguns instead of roads and schools; conservatives hating liberals for being obnoxious heathens who sodomize each other and being compassionate towards the poor; and, of course, the independents still hated themselves for not being important enough to get any attention.

However, even the usual grid of politics was shaken and stirred this year. Unquestionably, the biggest shock of 2005 was Tom Ridge finding Osama Bin Laden at a ski resort in Colorado during one of his many "conventions" for Homeland Security. For a six-foot diabetic, Bin Laden sure knew how to evade the Bush government.

No one is really sure how Bin Laden got away after the US had him, but ever since they found that stranded

canoe off the shores of southern Australia, Bush has been convinced that Osama is hiding there. Dubya was quick to verbally attack his former coalition allies, accusing them of harbouring terrorists. Fortunately, though, he's still waiting for the UN's permission before he orders that strike on Sydney.

**No one is really sure how Bin Laden got away after the US had him, but ever since they found that stranded canoe off the shores of southern Australia, Bush has been convinced that Osama is hiding there.**

Things weren't so dry locally, either. The assassination attempt on Ralph Klein made headlines for most of the spring. For those of you living under a rock, Klein was very nearly run over by a wheelchair-driving paraplegic homosexual man. The man had become enraged when the AISH program—being stripped of the majority of its funding by Klein in early February—could no longer pay him enough for his schizophrenia medication. Sadly, Klein's gigantic wallet managed to cushion the blow enough that he only escaped with minor injuries. It was a sad day for Albertans.

One big surprise this year—and also a nice segue out of politics and into

entertainment—was the rumour that Celebrity Boxing would be brought back in July for a very special match: Margaret Thatcher versus Tony Blair. The rumours were quickly squashed by Blair, though, much to the dismay of many British people. Members of British Parliament were reported to say it was for the best, since they couldn't decide who they wanted to see beat up more.

Finally, there was plenty of fun to be had in Hollywood this year. The much anticipated third chapter of the Star Wars franchise finally made it to the big screen ... and boy, did it suck. It left many of the franchise's pimple-faced virgin fans saying "Handle bars, my ears are not!" in horrible Yoda accents. Bill Murray made another really bad movie that everyone seemed to love, and will probably be nominated for another Oscar he won't win.

But by far the most shocking story in Hollywood this year was the public admission by Dr Phil that he was, in fact, an overweight man. Women all over the world were in shock, unable to believe that the man they trusted with their horrible body images had lied to them for so long. After Oprah officially withdrew her support for him, Dr Phil has not been seen on TV for months. Good riddance, I say. I'm just shocked no one saw it.

This year has definitely been a crazy one, and it doesn't appear that it's going to let up any time soon. With the coming war on Australia, 2006 looks like it's going to be one hell of a year. Let's just hope they don't liquify it like they did Iraq. I'm still getting used to calling it the New Black Sea.

# Adoption is not a reality show

SCOTT C  
BOURGEOIS



If you were watching television last week, hopefully you weren't watching Fox when they unveiled the newest low in reality television. Hopefully you were watching something with a shred of class, like professional wrestling.

Around six million people, however, tuned into the Fox special *Who's Your Daddy?*, a reality TV show in which a young adoptee was reunited with her birth father in a tear-soaked spectacle.

Unfortunately, she did have some hoops to jump through first, such as separating her real father—a man she's never met and only knows a few scraps of information about—from a lineup of impostors. If she chose correctly—which, remember, she did—she got reunited with her father and a \$100,000 grand prize. Because, well, Fox thinks adoption is a game. Worse, though, is that if one of the impostors managed to meet his claim to choosing them, they would have won the \$100,000.

Let me reiterate, just for those keeping score: our young woman has a one-in-eight chance of picking her real dad from a lineup of men who'll gladly lie to her face about deeply personal and emotional subject matter, all for the chance to win \$100,000. Fantastic.

Personally, I find this whole affair hard to stomach. The fact that Fox producers went through with this somewhat exploitative idea proves to me that some people in this world truly are without morality. Turning the emotional trauma of a woman seek-

ing to be reunited with her birth father into a game is despicable, and the only Fox producer who didn't sell his soul should feel terrible about himself.

In Alberta alone as many as 500 children are adopted per year. Each one of these children is being given a second chance, an opportunity to have a normal family life despite their biological parents not being able to support them. Most birth parents face a heart-wrenching choice when they decide to put their children up for adoption, whether it's the young single mother who simply cannot support her child, the couple without the means to take care of a special-needs baby, or the few parents who give their biological offspring into the care of another for selfish reasons. Though many of these children grow up with their adoptive family, happy with what they have and untroubled in dealing with the what-ifs, some do seek out their birth parents. The reasons may vary from simple curiosity to pressing medical needs to an honest desire to discover where you really come from, who you really are.

To take advantage of this desire is a sick form of emotional exploitation. I wouldn't want to have the chance to meet my birth parents if I successfully chose them from a group of unscrupulous actors, not even for \$100,000. I'd like to think my birth parents would appreciate that. From the *Bachelor*-esque set to the bubbly host to the tongue-in-cheek title, *Who's Your Daddy?* was a money-grabbing spectacle, not an attempt to bring a family back together. Fox clearly approached this tender subject like they approach all their other reality shows: as a joke.

There is a silver lining to the story, though. The show was a ratings flop—probably because most people had the decency to look away.

STUDENTS' UNION PAGE 01.11.2005

**This Friday, the Board of Governors will be deciding whether or not to INCREASE YOUR TUITION BY 5.75%, the maximum allowed by law. While the actual cost of a tuition increase to the average student is an abstract to most members of the Board of Governors, there's a real cost to you. But they won't know what it means to you unless you tell them. This week, the Students' Union wants you to have your say.**

Tuesday, January 11  
Forum on International Student Tuition  
**12:00 noon, SUB stage**

Understand what the tuition increases mean to those who are already paying 157% more tuition than Canadian students.

Wednesday, January 12  
Touchdowns for Tuition  
**10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Quad**

Most CFL players would have trouble paying your tuition. Join the University Athletics Board in Quad for this fun event.

Thursday, January 13  
"What Would I Do Without?" contest  
**SUB stage, all day**

Tell us what you will have to do without because of the tuition increase and have the opportunity to receive some help with your bills.

**RALLY**  
**3:00 pm, Celebration Plaza**

Meet at Celebration Plaza at 3 pm to show U-Hall that 24 consecutive years of tuition increases are enough. (Cheap Food Available)

Friday, January 14  
Poor Students' Breakfast  
**7:30 am – 9:30 am,**  
**Celebration Plaza**

The tuition hike will undoubtedly mean some cuts to a students' already frugal grocery budget. To help out, the SU will be handing out free breakfast to students as the Board begins its meeting. Stick around and be a visual reminder of those who are affected by tuition increases.

[www.universitiesmatter.com](http://www.universitiesmatter.com)

## YOUR 2004/2005 SU EXECUTIVE 492.4236

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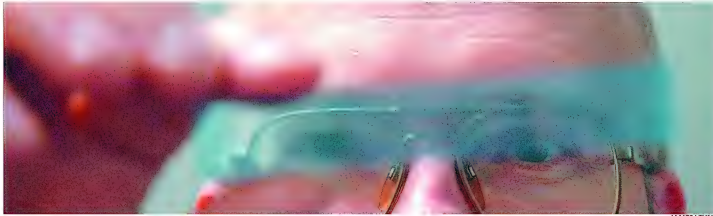


UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
**STUDENTS' UNION**





JEFFREY GREENHAUS



JAMES LEUNG



MIKE OTTO



NICK WIEBE



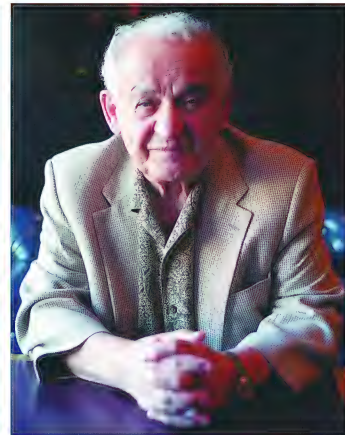
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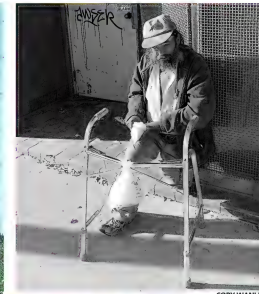
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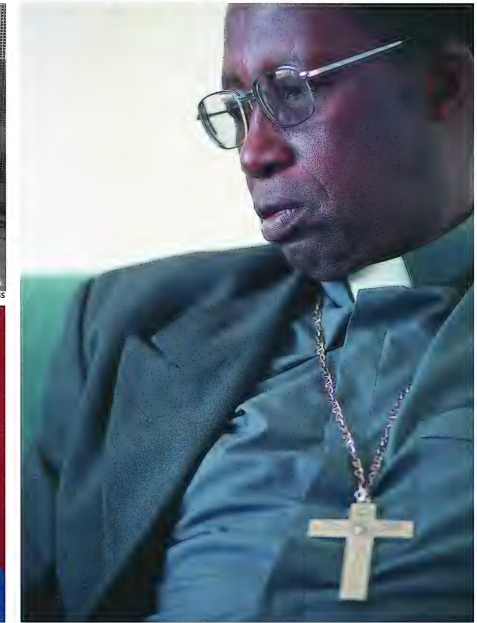
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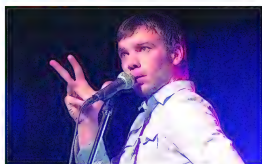
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JAMES LEUNG

## 21 000 WORDS

compiled by leanne fong



LEANNE FONG



# THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE TASTY

There are few things we can be certain of, but, in the year that was 2004, Gateway Arts & Entertainment writers were able to call a few things true: *Shaun of the Dead* is the best zombie movie ever, *White Chicks* is a cinematic abomination, and Xiu Xiu puts out a mighty fine record. Read what else our writers thought as they weigh in on everything that was marginally entertaining in 2004.

## In 2004, too many films were the yin to good taste's raging yang



DANIEL KASZOR

almost feels like Oliver Stone shot a four-hour gay love story (which would likely have been more interesting) but was then forced to edit the film down to three hours to de-emphasize the man-love.

In addition to feeling like there were pieces missing in the film, the editing was atrocious, with a sequence from earlier in the film transposed to near the end, making the entire story feel disjointed and nonsensical. Overall, *Alexander* was epic, but only because it failed so spectacularly.

Every rose has its thorn, every yin has its yang, and every good movie has its bad opening-weekend competition. But in 2004, that tender balance was obliterated as the multiplexes were inundated with the sort of trashy cinema that can't even be enjoyed on the most guilty of guilty-pleasure levels—the kind of film that refuses to admit that it's anything but ass. You know, like these five movies:

### 5. *Soul Plane*

Snoop Dogg and a crew of misfits fill a wacky hip-hop plane on a course to hijinks. Supposedly an "urban" remake of *Airplane*, this film fails on almost every level. Seriously, if you're going to make your film sexist and racist, at least try to make it funny, too. For a better version of an "urban" *Airplane*, the filmmakers may as well have taken the original movie and then adjusted the hue on their TVs so all of the characters looked black.

### 4. *Alexander*

This movie was the cinematic equivalent of a 40-car pile up: horrible for all involved, a terrible disaster, but somehow fascinating to watch.

The film is a mess with little idea of what overall direction or point the story is supposed to have. It

### 3. *Yu-Gi-Oh! The Movie*

*Yu-Gi-Oh!* has turned marketing into an art form and *Yu-Gi-Oh! The Movie* simply cements this fact.

The entire film is designed to make kids want to purchase cards for the movie's tie-in card game, and is essentially an hour-and-a-half tutorial for the game. And, considering that kids need to see the film four times to get all of the "free" game cards that come with the purchase of a movie ticket, the whole thing is nothing less than marketing genius—and the downfall of civilization.

### 2. *Taxi*

The fact that the neutered driving sequences were the best aspect of this film only goes to show how terrible *Taxi* was. Jimmy Fallon fumbles with his first starring role to the extent that it makes everything else he's been in less funny retroactively. I beg you, Luc Besson, please go back to making great movies like *Leon: The Professional* and stop producing shit like this.

### 1. *White Chicks*

You know how the best part of *Dungeons and Dragons* is when Marlon Wayans' character gets killed? Well, the best part of *White Chicks* is when you stop paying attention to the screen and imagine that Marlon and his brother Shawn are being murdered in creative and painful ways. Every other movie on this list has at least one bit that works or is at least so bad it's interesting. Not so with *White Chicks*. The story was so unbelievable and the jokes so asinine that it must be concluded that the Wayans think their average audience is as asinine-stupid as they clearly are.

## Breathtaking stories and zombies made for a fine year of foreign film

The top five faraway flicks of the year, from comedies to martial arts dramas



DAVID BERRY

something to be desired, but if Zhang's films get any more beautiful to watch, they're going to have to be shown exclusively in museums.

### 3. *Bad Education*

Director Pedro Almodóvar is probably the best thing to come out of Spain since Dalí. Almodóvar's newest film about two sexually abused, religiously schooled friends features both an absolutely amazing performance by Gael García Bernal and a wonderful experimentation in film noir by Almodóvar. *Bad Education* is Almodóvar's darkest film to date, but it's also one of his most rewarding.

### 2. *A Very Long Engagement*

The reunited combination of Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Audrey Tautou (*Amélie*) fills this story with so much whimsy and romance that you'd have to be pretty much incapable of love to really be upset about the film's flourishes of melodrama. Set in the aftermath of World War I and centering on a girl named Mathilde's (Tautou) search for her supposedly dead fiancé, the film manages to convey both the horrors of war and the desperate longing of love without taking away from either emotion. Plus, you know, you get to bask in the vision of Audrey Tautou for 134 minutes.

### 1. *Shaun of the Dead*

Okay, so there's a lot of weepy emotion in foreign films, or at least in reviews of foreign films, but by far the best movie to come from far-off lands this year was Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright's zombie movie/romantic comedy/spoof of both. It's quite easily the funniest comedy of the year from any country, and the combination of dry humor and the sheer joy Pegg and Wright have in playing around with established genre conventions make the film's characters seem more real than those in a lot of other movies out there, horror, romantic comedy or otherwise. This is probably some kind of blasphemy, but the combination of horror and comedy pretty much makes *Shaun of the Dead* the best zombie movie ever made, if not one of the best films of the year.

### 5. *Maria Full of Grace*

Director Joshua Marston's story about a girl forced to work as a drug mule was one of the most powerfully emotional in a year with more than its fair share of movies about feelings. Marston manages to perfectly convey the emotional weight and desperation of Maria's situation without ever clipping into the realm of melodrama or pretension. It also features a miraculous performance from newcomer Catalina Sandino Moreno as Maria, who practically breaks your heart every time she's on screen.

### 4. *Hero / House of Flying Daggers*

Okay, *Hero* was actually released two years ago in Hong Kong, but it had its long-overdue North American release this year. Besides, watching it on ripped DVDs really doesn't do director Yimou Zhang's spectacular visual style much justice. And now, with the North American release of *House of Flying Daggers*, Zhang's gone even further. Yes, the stories usually leave a little



# Tonight we're gonna party like it's 2004

From local punks to a stunning chanteuse, here are the best live shows of '04



YING-YING  
LEE

In 2004, Edmonton played host to a wide variety of live acts. But it was a strong resurgence of Canadian bands and singers (with one notable exception) that managed to leave their impression on our fine city. Here are just a few highlights.

## Best Show Spawned by Edmonton

*The Operators' 780CD Release Party with Our Mercury/The Vertical Struts and Shout Out Out Out Out Stars*  
23 July

To celebrate the release of their latest record, *The Operators' 780* invited everyone to join them in a hot summer night of good times, good friends, and above all, good music. A sell-out crowd danced the night away with the infectious sounds of this punk-reggae sensation. The strong lineup of opening bands meant a long night for local music lovers.

Our Mercury's performance confirmed, once again, that they are one of Edmonton's most appreciated and talented bands. The show also debuted *Shout Out Out Out Out*, a psychedelic, electro, new-wave dance band that will surely invade E-town's scene in the coming year.

## Best Reason to Bring Your Own Tambourine

*The Constantines with Jim Guthrie, The Wolfnote and No Hands*  
*Sidetrack Café and Seedy's*  
30 April and 1 May

When *The Cons* came back this

spring, Edmontonians had two opportunities to witness firsthand how these five guys from Guelph, Ontario pour their hearts into every song they perform. Their two consecutive shows were different in atmosphere—the Sidetrack drew a large "ready-to-rock" crowd, while the Seedy's show had an intimate undertone.

Both nights the band handed out tambourines to the crowd, inviting them to play along during their last encore—a simple, appreciative gesture to end a night of great music.

## Best Punk-Rock Comeback

*SNFU with The Operators' 780 and Helvis*  
*New City Suburbs*  
14 May

When the veteran punks of SNFU invaded the city, fans were glad to find that they'd aged with grace. And by grace, I mean they still know how to throw a sweat-soaked, punk-rock gong show.

With 2004's release of *In the Meantime* and *In Between Time*, they proved that they're not about to slow down. Judging by their performance at New City that night, these guys may still have another 20 years of havoc to unleash.

## Best Reason to Gussy Up in Your Klondike Best

*Sam Roberts*  
*Klondike Days*  
21 July

Klondike Days has long outlived its novelty. The thought of partially clad teenagers, creepy carnies, and the smell of deep-fried everything evokes feelings of disdain, fear, and nausea.

This year, surprisingly, a breath of fresh air named Sam Roberts swept across the exhibition grounds and renewed watching interest in the annual pseudo-tribute to gold panning. Although he appears much smaller in person, Roberts brings huge energy

to the stage. The crowd gleefully sang along to almost every song and proudly cheered as Roberts stealthily slid a nod to Edmonton into his hit "Where Have All the Good People Gone?" Roberts might only have a soft spot for Edmonton after racking up plenty of hardware at the Junos earlier in the year, but regardless, Edmonton loves him back.

## Most Stunning Voice

*Sarah Harmer*  
*with Josh Ritter*  
*The Winspear*  
6 October

Opening act Josh Ritter was honoured to play in Edmonton's exquisite Winspear Centre. He likened the experience to "playing in a giant birthday cake." Despite the lack of frosting and candles, no other venue in the city could have better showcased the voice of Sarah Harmer.

That night, not only were the acoustics impeccable, but so was the intimate nature and warm spirit that filled the room. Despite being surrounded by hundreds of other fans, the evening felt like an intimate conversation with an old friend.

## Best Political Dance Party

*Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra*  
*New City Suburbs*  
13 October

Unlike the other bands, Antibalas are not Canadian, but they still deserve mention. The crowd worked up a sweat as the 14-member ensemble kept the heat, and the beats, coming.

Not only does this band entertain, but they also educate and advocate. For the past six years, Antibalas has adamantly supported dozens of humanitarian and environmental efforts, including AIDS awareness in Africa and Rainforest Relief. This unique band is a perfect blend of artistry and humanity, and they bring a live show worth remembering.

# All hail Topher, full of Grace

2004 was an unexpectedly breakout year for *That '70s Show* star



ELIZABETH  
VAIL

With the long-running Fox sitcom *That '70s Show* most likely terminating at the end of this, its seventh season, only two of the show's regulars stand to keep their stars burning brightly. One of those stars is Ashton Kutcher, who blazed into the public eye by irritating celebrities on MTV and publicly dating an older woman. The other is Topher Grace, who starred alongside Kutcher as the lovable square, Eric Forman.

Last year, Grace gained a fair amount of attention on film with his dorky Forman likeability. What the narrow-framed, Connecticut native lacked in muscle tone and aging arm candy, he more than made up for with charm and talent.

In January, while Kutcher stuck it to Justin Timberlake with his televised puns, Grace won young women's hearts by starring in *Win a Date with Tad Hamilton!* as Pete Monash, a supermarket manager who goes head to head with superstar Tad Hamilton (Josh Duhamel) in order to

win the heart of his love, Rosie (Kate Bosworth). Although it was little more than a fluffy romantic comedy, it earned good reviews as a relief from the cinematic sludge that usually clutters theatres in post-Oscar nomination deadline season.

**Last year, Grace gained a fair amount of attention on film with his dorky Forman likeability. What the narrow-framed, Connecticut native lacked in muscle tone and aging arm candy, he more than made up for with charm and talent.**

In October, Grace garnered praise for his role as a young art student in the independent film *PS*. Although the official star of the film is Laura Linney, who portrays a lonely admissions director from Columbia who continues to pine for her boyfriend who died back in high school, Grace earned plenty of accolades as the younger man

who just might be the reincarnation of her long lost love.

Dubbed "the next Tom Hanks" by *Newsweek* and *Entertainment Weekly*, Grace carries hefty comedic chops honed by his seven years on TV, and he proved on numerous occasions in 2004 that he was not afraid to laugh at himself and make others do the same. In November, Grace reclaimed his role as "Spoiled Celebrity Topher Grace," trashing Brad Pitt's hotel room in *Ocean's Twelve*, while screaming about how he "totally phoned it in on the Dennis Quaid movie."

That "Dennis Quaid movie" would be *In Good Company*, which opened in Los Angeles and New York on 29 December.

In this latest project, Grace stars opposite Quaid as Carter Durayco, a 26-year-old business school prodigy who, after a corporate takeover, becomes the boss to 51-year-old sales veteran Dan Foreman, played by Quaid, and then promptly begins an affair with his daughter, played by Scarlett Johansson.

Ending 2004 with such a starring turn, it's clear that Topher Grace is on his way up.

By branching out from the teen genre in 2004, Grace managed to gather enough fuel to keep his spotlight from becoming just another flash in the pan.

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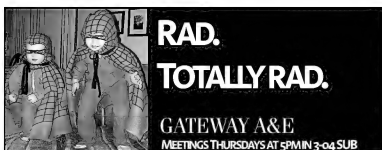
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Some previous winners:

- 2003/2004 - Dr. Ted Levin, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
- 2003/2004 - Dr. Edward Luszcz, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- 2002/2003 - Dr. A. Max Chemistry
- 2002/2003 - Dr. P. Fedorak, Biological Sciences
- 2002/2003 - Dr. M. Shorrock, Mathematical & Statistical Sciences
- 2001/2002 - Dr. R. Carver, Biological Sciences
- 2001/2002 - Dr. H. Sheel, Physics
- 2001/2002 - Dr. H. Zhang, Computing Sciences

**Nomination Procedures:** A letter of nomination signed by at least 10 undergraduate students plus any supporting material, which is thought to be appropriate, should be submitted to the Chair of the Award for Excellent Teaching Committee for each semester. The appropriate science department will ensure that all nominations are fully documented before submission to the Committee.

**Eligibility:** Nominees for the Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching must have held a full time faculty appointment in the Faculty of Science at this University for at least five years prior to nomination. Previous winners of the award are excluded from further competition.

Students can also nominate Professors from a Faculty other than Science to receive a Certificate for Excellent Teaching (details are available from CW222 Biological Sciences Building).

Contact the Chair of the Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching  
Committee  
Dr. W. J. Page, Associate Dean  
Faculty of Science  
CW222 Biological Sciences Building

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:  
JANUARY 21, 2005

# Food! Glorious food! Hot sausage and mustard!



ADAM  
ROZENHART

Of all the basic necessities of life, food is quite often the most delicious. A good meal can lift your spirits and improve your disposition. A lousy one can sour your mood and, at the very worst, force said lousy meal's contents from your body, thereby ruining your entire year—and, possibly, your pants. In the spirit, then, of delicacy, I bring you the top meals of 2004.

**5. Breakfast**  
*Highlevel Diner, Edmonton*  
Monday to Friday until 11am, the Highlevel serves up one of the simplest, cheapest and most delicious breakfast specials on Edmonton's southside. Their special—two eggs, done up how ever you like, toast, hash

browns, and the Diner's own home-made ketchup—flows into the hungry bellies of breakfasters like water from the Rockies—water from the Rockies that's made of bread and breakfast meats.

### 4. Christmas dinner

*Ala Mort, Calgary*

That's right: in spite of the fact that three of the thankless men in her life lounged in their pyjamas on Christmas day, Mom was hard at work in the kitchen cooking what was one of the finest meals of '04. Mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed carrots, stuffing, and, of course, turkey all helped to mark the birth of Santa last year.

### 3. Po' Boy

*Da-De-O, Edmonton*

Nothing beats a Po' Boy sandwich from Da-De-O. Well, except for the next two items. But in terms of sandwichness, Da-De-O has everyone beat. A succulent and spicy chicken Po' Boy combined with a serving of sweet potato fries marked what was easily

the third-best meal of the year.

### 2. Sushi

*Tsunami Sushi, Vancouver*

Though perhaps insensitively named because of the recent calamity in Asia, Tsunami is one of the finest sushi establishments I've ever had the pleasure of dining in. A small stream of mini boats sail past you as you plunder each vessel for their delicious booty. Of particularly striking flavour were the spicy tuna maki. Ships ahoy, friends.

### 1. Pork schnitzel with mashed potatoes

*The Manor Café, Edmonton*

Pork schnitzel with mashed potatoes: how do you be so scrumptious? The Manor Café, a fine casual eatery, does know the secret. This simple meal—breaded pork, deep-fried—is easily one of their best dishes. A splash of lemon on the schnitzel, and an accompaniment of garlic mashed potatoes made this a hearty and filling mainstay of '04.

# Déjà PlayStation2: 2004 was the year of the much-hyped sequel



DANIEL  
KASZOR

### 4. Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas

*PS2*

Rockstar North crafted a huge living world in GTA: San Andreas, a virtual landscape so large that it would take months of playtime to fully explore.

San Andreas improves almost every aspect of Grand Theft Auto (and that game was already good) and introduces several cool character customization options lifted straight from *The Sims*.

All of the annoying aspects from the previous GTAs, however, come back in full force: the sometimes rough and simplistic graphics, the loose controls, the clunky menus and the hard to read mini-map.

The game is just brilliant, but the technical issues still show a bit more because the game isn't as revolutionary as its predecessors.

### 3. Burnout 3: Takedown

*Xbox, PS2*

Probably one of the best arcade-style racing games ever released, *Burnout 3* is a pure guilty pleasure. The gimmick of crashing other cars to get "boost" never feels like a gimmick, and it enhances instead of detracts from the racing.

The inclusion of modes to create giant pileups and the ability to take out other racers while you're crashing make the game almost perfect. The game's only real foible is that the computer controlled AI cheats when you race against it. But that can easily be remedied by going online and playing against real people.

### 2. Metroid Prime 2

*GameCube*

The sequel to the best game of 2002 maintains the high quality of its predecessor. *Prime 2* follows up and improves many aspects of the first game, making the sequel play ever-so-slightly better than the original. Which is to say the overall experience is pretty much the same. But that's, of course, okay, because the first game was awesome.

### 1. Metal Gear Solid 3

*PS2*

Since the release of the almost abusively postmodern *Metal Gear Solid 2* in 2001, it hasn't been cool to be a fan of Hideo Kojima's *Metal Gear* franchise. Maybe that's why the game cycle wasn't churning quite as intensely for the premiere of *Metal Gear Solid 3*; the game was released as under the radar as any AAA title in a major franchise can be.

But MGSS3 doesn't need the hype; the game is a masterpiece. The game-play systems have been evolved intelligently from the prequels, and they play out into the larger metagame without feeling forced (for example, the camouflage system fits perfectly into the hour-long sniper battle you encounter about halfway through the game). Additionally, the story is exceptional without ever taking away the feeling that you are playing a game and not watching a movie.

All of MGSS3's elements work together with such polish that the game simply becomes more than the sum of its already excellent parts.

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# Take that, Duff: the best album of 2004's an everlovin' rock opera

The rock operatic The Fiery Furnaces are in good company on this meticulously selected list of the top five records of last year



JAMIE STEWART

## 1. The Fiery Furnaces Blueberry Boat

There aren't any ways around it: the best album of 2004 was an everlovin' rock opera. Not just any rock opera, either—Matthew Friedberger of the brother-sister duo admits the album was patterned after Who classics *Quick One ...* and *The Who Sell Out*, but *Blueberry Boat* sounds more like it was written by Joyce than Townsend.

Rather than simply aping garage-rock superstars The Strakes or The White Stripes, the Furnaces have completely transcended the genre, piecing together sweeping, rambling adventures that call upon the best of folk, rock, blues, prog and even electronica. This stuff makes the popular contender for this year's "rock opera" title, Green Day's *American Idiot*, look like the doggerel your angsty little brother passes into his blog.

Clocking in at a weighty 76 minutes, and feeling more like three or four hours of material, *Blueberry Boat* may be a challenge in only one sitting, and if you've been weaned on three-minute pop songs you may find it downright frustrating at first. There is no mistaking, however, that nothing

in the past year has come even close to rivaling the Furnaces' ambitious opus.

## 2. The Arcade Fire Funeral

The remarkable transition of *Funeral* from indie favourite to critical darling to mainstream success seems to rival The White Stripes' own breakout popularity, but with one critical difference: the Arcade Fire deserve every bit of hype and press received.

Funerals, quite simply, is a technically flawless album. While the album wanders from post-punk-inspired indie rock ("Neighbourhood #2 (Laika)" to Mancini-esque love ballad ("Crown of Love") and seemingly every space in between, *Funeral* is undeniably a rock record, and one of the best we've seen in years. Despite the album's weighty inspiration—three deaths in the band's families—it is undeniably uplifting, and in marked contrast to The Fiery Furnaces' *Blueberry Boat*, perhaps one of the most accessible albums of the year.

Everyone will love this, or already does. If *Blueberry Boat* is 2004's *Tommy*, *Funeral* is its *Joshua Tree*.

## 3. Xiu Xiu Fetters & Muscles

For nearly an entire year Xiu Xiu rode high on the critical acclaim this spring release garnered, and for good reason. Jamie Stewart's wit is at once one of the most emotional and vulnerable around, and his songs push the boundaries of pop in ways that are in some ways cathartic, others distress-

ing, but never disappointing.

## 4. The Animal Collective Sung Tongs

*Sung Tongs* is as surreal and experimental as any Animal Collective album, but in markedly different ways. There is no edginess or discord here. Even from the opening track, "Leaf House," one can tell, as perfect harmonies wash softly around while Avey Tare and Panda Bear somehow make "kitty kitty kitty kitty kitty kitty meow meow" sound like the best lyrics ever written. This is the innocent, playful pop of the Beach Boys in a new, nearly Dadaist incarnation, and by all rights a must-have, even though its only cogent statement seems to be that "you don't have to go to college."

## 5. Destroyer Your Blues

New Pornographer alumnus Dan Bejar has always been known as a very talented songwriter, but he has really come into his own with *Your Blues* in a way unmatched by any of his previous releases. His voice (compared by many to Bowie's) seemed oddly uncomfortable among his usual sparse acoustic guitar arrangements, but among *Your Blues'* sweeping, theatrical synths it is perfectly at home. MIDI instruments rarely bring with them any feeling of sincerity or emotion, but Bejar works them into an elegant, theatrical and undeniably creative album, proving he is one of the best Canadian songwriters of at least the past decade.

# Lil Lohan's got no chance against these ten picks for 2004's best albums



ERIN WEISGERBER

guitar, a dash of chamber pop, some sultry vocals, and a sprinkling of computer-generated noise. Blend thoroughly. The result? A genre-bending and wholly enjoyable record.

## Joanna Newsom The Milk-Eyed Mender

The most striking thing about Newsom's full-length solo debut is her unusual voice, which sounds like something from Harry Smith's *Anthology of American Folk Music* or a nine-year-old's impersonation of Björk. And considering most tracks are played on harp or harpsichord, Newsom's music seems downright weird. But underlying this oddball musical treatment are Newsom's wonderfully literate lyrics and infectious pop hooks.

## Sonic Youth Sonic Nurse

After a quarter century together, most bands reach a state of creative rigidity. With *Sonic Nurse*, a mellow, compositionally restrained incarnation of the band's distinctive sound, Sonic Youth prove that they are the exception to this rule.

## Molasses Trouble at Inn Hotel

Music that conjures images of old boxcars and rusty railroad ties: these are road songs for weary vagabonds. The 15 members of the Molasses collective loudly wrap everything from oud to musical saw and mournful violin around the core of Scott Chernoff's

rickety acoustic guitar and low rasp, and Jennifer Menard's perfectly complementary gauzy backup.

## Comets on Fire Blue Cathedral

Eight blissfully freaked-out tracks of psychedelia like nothing your hippie parents ever heard. Wailing organ, screaming guitar leads and a fury of raw, youthful energy: this is rock 'n' roll done right.

## Xiu Xiu Fabulous Muscles

*Fabulous Muscles* is like a Postal Service album on a bad trip. Unsettling lyrics, beautiful melodic progressions fraught with self-imposed discord and Jamie Stewart's melodramatic vocal style make this album a strong statement, and a decidedly love-or-hate affair.

## Sixtoo Chewing on Glass & Other Miracles

Dark, groovy, and slick, *Chewing on Glass* is a mostly instrumental hip-hop record of chopped-up samples, live drum, bass, effects-processed guitar and Rhodes piano. The album also features guest performances by a couple of Godspeed You! Black Emperor members on cello and contrabass and a manic vocal track by Dano Suzuki.

## Suffjan Stevens Seven Swans

Creepy banjo songs about God equals awesome.

Ashlee Simpson, Lindsay Lohan, and Hilary Duff don't have to be the names we'll remember when it comes to the pop charts of 2004. A variety of exciting and innovative pop albums were introduced via college radio this past year. Here are ten of this year's best albums to grace the margins of pop music.

## Tim Hecker Mingos

Hecker's latest experimental ambient release is like an arctic night: cold, desolate, and beautiful—like reading Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Mont Blanc."

## Iron & Wine Our Endless Numbered Days

Sam Beam and company give up the rustic bedroom-recording quality of previous releases for the clean sound of this offering. These cozy folk-inspired tunes showcase Beam's intimate vocals over a bed of delicately picked guitar arrangements.

## Shalabi Effect Pink Abyss

Take Middle-Eastern flavoured jams, add a generous quantity of electric

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# SPORTS

sports@gawest.ca • Tuesday, 11 January, 2005

## Basketball Pandas shock Huskies with weekend sweep

CHRIS O'LEARY  
Sports Writer

The young Pandas basketball team is done showing promise; they've decided it's time to start delivering.

The Pandas (4-6) shocked the fourth-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies (5-5) with two wins this weekend, 83-79 on Friday and 79-73 on Saturday. The sweep was two of the biggest wins in recent memory for the Pandas, who are now on a four-game in-conference winning streak after starting the season 0-6. Alberta has now catapulted back into the playoff picture, as they are only one win behind Saskatchewan, Regina and Calgary (all 5-5), who hold the final three playoff spots in Canada West.

On paper, the Huskies seem to have enough talent to handle the upstart Pandas team. Six-foot-two third-year centre Sarah Crooks has wreaked havoc on her opponents this season, averaging a dominant 21 points and 13 rebounds per game, and the experienced backcourt of Sharlene Cooper and Ashley Dutchak was scoring just under 26 points per game. But led by an efficient 21 points from second-year forward Carly McLennan on Friday, the Pandas would prove to have an answer for everything the Huskies threw at them, as post players Melissa Penner, Stephanie Stolk, and Kristin Jarock were all effective in shutting Crooks down in key stretches. While Crooks put up big numbers on the weekend, totaling 27 points and 29 rebounds, she was ineffective in crucial moments, shooting out of her range and missing badly when the Huskies needed points the most. Pandas head coach Trix Baker was pleased with the way her team handled the standout centre.

"We knew what we had to do," Baker said. "This was something we talked about with our sports psychologist: playing to your strengths,

knowing what you do well. We started doing this in Lethbridge, having everyone hitting key shots. It was a great game."

The Huskies were intense out of the gate in Saturday's game, determined to avenge Friday's embarrassment of losing to an unranked team. Behind the play of Crooks and Dutchak, who would finish with a game-best 29 points, the Huskies jumped out to an early seven-point lead. The Pandas showed a newfound composure, though, fighting their way back late in the first half behind some quick scoring from first-year forward Lauren Colborne, who hit a clutch three-point shot to give the Pandas a 40-37 halftime lead. She came out firing in the second half and finished the game with 16 points, connecting on four of five three-point shots.

Colborne provided the spark, and the rest of the Pandas responded. Four players scored in double figures and the team shot an impressive 59 per cent from the field as the Pandas withstood a late second-half Huskies charge to win by six.

Baker said her team handled the Huskies pressure well on Saturday.

"We came out hard, which I thought would be important," she said. "Lauren played great. She only played five minutes in the first half and had ten points."

Baker noted that the Pandas have been forced to grow up quickly this season, and credits that for their sudden success.

"We're definitely not playing like we have seven first-year kids. These kids are well past being inexperienced players. They've played under a lot of pressure recently, and they're carrying their momentum into the next game," she said, adding that she's hoping their balanced attack will continue. "We had double digits out of a group of players, that's what we need more of."



**DETERMINED** Stephanie Stolk and the Pandas upset the fourth-ranked Huskies over the weekend. LEANNE FONG

## Full-strength hoops Bears look sharp in series split

Bears earn big win with full lineup for the first time this season

CHRIS O'LEARY  
Sports Writer

Although it came a day late, a healthy Golden Bears' basketball lineup proved to be worth the wait this weekend, as the Bears were able to avenge a Friday night 67-62 loss with an impressive 87-73 win Saturday against the ninth-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies.

The Bears played without fifth-year guard Mike Melnychuk on Friday night, who was forced to miss a game for the first time in his Alberta career due to the flu.

"I don't really know what's wrong," he said Friday night as his teammates took to the court without him. "My neck and back have been sore; I'm always tired. I'm in the hottest gym in the country and I'm freezing. My body's just telling me I can't play."

The weekend series against the Huskies was post player Phil Sudol's first home appearance this season after recovering from a torn ACL and MCL suffered almost a year ago. The third-year big man showed few signs of rust Friday in what was his fourth time taking the court this season, racking up a game-high 22 points, a team-high seven rebounds and adding four steals, also a game high. The Bears built up an eight-point halftime lead but fell sagrant early in the second half. The Huskies opened the half with a 13-2 run and came away with a five-point win.

"We came out a little lackadaisical in the second half and we paid the price in the end," Sudol said. "They ended up getting a lead and we played catch-up in the second half, and it

shouldn't have been that way."

But with Melnychuk back in the lineup on Saturday, the Bears were at full strength at home for the first time this season and they showed what their full roster is capable of. A James Hudson three-point shot in the dying seconds of the first half let the Bears take a 36-33 lead into the break. As the second half progressed it became increasingly clear that this game would go to the Bears, who were paced by guard Tyler Costin's 23 points and a combined 38 points from Sudol and forward Scott Gordon. The Bears were productive from both the inside and the outside in both games, and did an effective job of containing Huskies' star forward Andrew Spagrud, who came to town averaging 26.5 points and 11 rebounds per game, but managed only 33 points and 4 rebounds over the two games.

"[Spagrud] was a major focus for us," Gordon said after Saturday's win. "Our zone defense worked really well for us all weekend. We're communicating a lot and having Phil back for us helps too. I've been looking forward to that all year."

Saturday's win tied the Bears' and Huskies' season series at two games apiece, which forced an interesting finish to Saturday's game, a contest that was decided with at least three minutes remaining. Because point differential is the next tiebreaker in case the teams finish tied at the end of the season, both teams played the game's final minutes as if the game were winnable with each possession. Unfortunately for the Bears, their 13-point victory wasn't enough, and Saskatchewan hung on to win the season series by one point.



**AT-OSS-UP** The Golden Bears and Saskatchewan Huskies split a weekend series in the Main Gym. BARRY BRENNER

## The year's top five sports stories

Hockey and violence, in various combinations, dominated the headlines for much of 2004

ROSS PRISAKOWSKI  
Sports Writer

1. For a nation obsessed with hockey there can only be one top story—the **National Hockey League lockout** and its darkening of arenas, TV screens and fans' hearts. With the excitement of one of the best playoffs in recent memory quickly fading, billionaire owners and millionaire players have been unable to work out their differences, resulting in a lockout that's threatening to wipe out the entire season. The dispute has already dragged on for more than 120 days, leaving millions across Canada and dozens in the United States aching for the return of hits, goals and the chase for the Stanley Cup.

2. In baseball, like life, there used to be only two things that were certain: the New York Yankees will pay a luxury tax larger than some teams' payrolls, and every season there will be an early death of the Boston Red Sox's playoff hopes. That list got shorter in 2004 as the **Red Sox captured the World Series** for the first time since 1918, breaking the curse Babe Ruth left behind after being sold to the arch-rival Yankees. The win was made all the more sweet as the Sox extraordinarily came back from being down 3-0 in the American League Championship Series to beat the Yankees in seven games and advance, itself a feat almost as rare as the Sox capturing the Series.

3. After seven long years of wandering golf courses early in spring, and becoming a running joke for playoff futility, the **Calgary Flames** and their playoff

run captured Canadians' imaginations. Martin Gelnas' overtime goals, the Red Mile and Mike Commodore's hair all became national obsessions as the little team that wasn't supposed to, did. While they ultimately fell just short of the Stanley Cup, for two months the Flames became an outlet for Canada's hockey passion.

4. The massive **NBA brawl** in Detroit between the Indiana Pacers, Detroit Pistons and Detroit fans armed with beer, chairs and fists was one of the most violent mainstream sports incidents in memory. The mayhem led to some superb footage of Murder City fans learning first-hand that NBA players' toughness is more than just an image, and that it's best not to take on an angry, athletic seven-foot monster. The aftermath of the brawl included the Pacers playoff hopes and the NBA's image among the casualties.

5. **Hockey violence** also frequently made headlines in 2004, as on-ice incidents fueled alarming stories about the nature of hockey brutality. With Alexander Perezhogin's wounding of an AHL opponent with a slash to the head barely forgotten, Todd Bertuzzi's hideous sucker punch of Steve Moore in the NHL gave a black eye to hockey and gave Americans another excuse to snub the sport. Although both leagues took quick action by suspending the culprits indefinitely, court appearances, pools of blood on the ice and endless slow-motion replays ensured that anger around the world associated thuggery with hockey and did permanent damage to the sport's image.

## Football Bears make a stir in 2004

Sports success, sports bras among the year's top five campus sports stories

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Sports Editor

1. After two decades of futility, the **Golden Bears football team bounced back** in a big way in 2004, posting their most successful season—by a wide margin—since 1984. Finishing first in Canada West with a 7-1 regular season record, the Bears hosted the conference championship game, the Hardy Cup, then suffered a disappointing one-point loss with all-star running back Jarred Winkel on the sideline with a knee injury.

The team has undergone a spectacular turnaround since head coach Jerry Priesen took over in 2001, when they posted a 2-6 record, but the progress may not have reached its peak: with only two players finishing their fifth and final year of eligibility in 2004, a more experienced Bears squad will be a favourite to challenge for the 2005 Vanier Cup.

2. As exciting as the football season was, a few U of A teams managed to go further in 2004. The big surprise, though, was that **only one Alberta squad won CIS gold**—that being the Pandas hockey team, who earned a perfect record en route to their championship in March.

A week earlier, both our volleyball clubs had come up just short of their own national titles, each coming home with silver, and several other squads made national championship appearances, including a bronze medal win by the Bears cross-country squad in November. But the biggest surprises were the Pandas rugby team, whose bronze medal in November marked



FILE PHOTO: NICK WEBB

**SURGING AHEAD** in 2004, the Bears had their best year in two decades.

the first time in their history they hadn't won the national title, and the hockey Bears, who in March finished fourth after going undefeated through the Canada West season.

3. The campus athletics community was caught off-guard in October by the sudden resignation of Athletics Director Kim Gordon, who decided to return to her hometown of Vancouver. She had held the position since March 2002. She was replaced on an interim basis by Bob Kinasevich, director of development and alumni affairs for the faculty of physical education and recreation. A permanent successor will be named later this year.

4. The U of A was the centre of a bizarre media storm in the fall, when the **Pandas volleyball team defied conference rules** by continuing the practice of changing from practice to game jerseys at the team bench. They

were the only team to protest the new rule, which came into effect for the 2004/05 season, and as a result they've been penalized a point at the beginning of each of their matches. While university sport is usually starved for coverage, the protest was covered by media across the country, including the *National Post*.

5. Student athletes and their supporters breathed a sigh of relief in March, when students defeated a referendum that sought to abolish the **Golden Bear and Panda Legacy Fund**. The fund, which raises about \$150 000 annually from a student levy to help pay for things such as non-conference competitions, was supported by 61.6 per cent of voters. After the referendum, the "No" side was fined for two incidents of campaigning after the end of the official campaign period, but because of the decisive margin, no one appealed the results.

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Could there be anything better than volunteering for Gateway sports? No, of course not. Well, maybe winning the lottery would be slightly better. But only slightly. And the odds of that happening are fairly slim, anyway.

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ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
Sports Writer

While baseball fans in Edmonton may have lost with the sale and relocation of the Edmonton Trappers, the University of Alberta Golden Bears football program has become an unexpected winner in the deal.

In December, with money from the sale of the baseball club, the Edmonton Eskimos donated \$400 000 to amateur football in Edmonton, including the Huskies and Wildcats of the Canadian Junior Football League, Football Alberta, and the Golden Bears.

"We made a commitment as part of that sale [of the Trappers] that the proceeds, or a large portion of it, would be turned back into legacy projects," said Dave Jamieson, manager of communications and marketing for the Eskimos.

Each team will receive \$100 000: half to upgrade the team's facilities and equipment and half for scholarships for athletes.

"This donation to the Golden Bears is a tangible show of support for the efforts of the University of Alberta football program," said Jamieson. "We benefit greatly from having the kind of high-calibre football the Golden Bears provide, and because of the talent the Bears have produced over the years that have played with us it has been a very beneficial relationship."

The \$50 000 devoted to scholarships will effectively be an extension of a scholarship fund between the Golden

Bears and Eskimos that was already in place for five years, something very much appreciated by Golden Bears head coach Jerry Friesen.

"Scholarships are a key for us to bring in important recruits that help our football team and this is something that's a real benefit to our program," Friesen explained. "This is going to help us maintain the recruiting process we have in place right now."

**"This donation to the Golden Bears is a tangible show of support for the efforts of the University of Alberta football program. We benefit greatly from having the kind of high-calibre football the Golden Bears provide."**

DAVE JAMIESON,  
EDMONTON ESKIMOS  
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

"This deal is not just about buying more equipment and operating whatever facilities the teams have," said Jamieson. "It was also to help the student athletes and it's important to remember at the University of Alberta they are student athletes and the ac-

demics come first."

On the facilities side of the deal, the money is going to be devoted to improving the meeting space for both coaches and athletes at Rodeo Field. While the money will help improve the facility, Friesen said that people shouldn't expect massive renovations.

"The plans are to make it so that the coaches and players have a better place to meet, review video and where computer accessibility is better," said Friesen. "Fifty thousand dollars isn't going to change a whole lot, but it's definitely going to improve things."

The donation has solidified the relationship between the Eskimos and all levels of amateur football in the city, something that both Jamieson and Friesen see as positive for all the groups involved and for football in general.

"Overall increased interest in football, be it at the university level with the Golden Bears, at the junior level with the Huskies and Wildcats and at the pro level with the Eskimos is good for us," said Jamieson. "If more people are attending football games generally, then we're probably going to see an increased interest at our level."

"What they're doing is touching the grassroots of football in northern Alberta, and that's huge," said Friesen. "It's a great opportunity for them to be involved and the donations they're making have an impact all the way down to atom and pee-wee football. It's a great opportunity to develop football."

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# Varsity athletes to fight tuition with touchdowns

## Annual event seeks to raise awareness, funds

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Sports Editor

Varsity athletes will hit the snow in Quad tomorrow for a day-long football game to raise both awareness and money in the battle against rising tuition.

As part of the Students' Union's week of events leading up to Friday's Board of Governors tuition decision, the second annual Touchdowns for Tuition event will feature Golden Bears and Pandas from all sports playing to raise money for a scholarship which will be given to the winner of a random draw.

Various local businesses have pledged money for each touchdown scored during the game, and Leo Carroll, a member of the Bears volleyball team and Vice-President (External) of the University Athletics Board, said he expects the total to be at least \$2000.

"We've also had a lot of prize donations, so we're planning on having the big inflatable 'A' set up out in Quad as well, and we're going to have games set up for students to win these prizes," he said.

The game will run from 10am to 4pm tomorrow, with a free barbecue running alongside it, which Carroll hopes will help draw a crowd despite the cold temperatures forecast.

"Athletes have been signing up,

and they'll be out there pretty much all day, and it might be pretty cold," he said with a laugh. "Last year it was really cold, but we still had all the people show up who were supposed to. We should be about to tug it out."

In addition to the game and barbecue in Quad, there will be concurrent events held in SUB. At noon and 1pm, bands featuring student athletes will play on SUBstage, followed by speeches from Assistant Athletics Director Mike McTeague and SU President Jordan Blatz.

While bad weather and the timing of the tuition decision is the first week of classes make it difficult to predict the turnout for Touchdowns for Tuition, Carroll expressed optimism that the event would be a success.

"It's going to be a chance for us to go out, have a good time, raise some money and support our fellow students," he said. "It's coming together well and I think it's going to be a lot of fun."

While the tuition week event is certainly popular to a large degree, it's also seen as a chance for athletes to give back to the student population as a whole.

"It's to get students more aware about rising tuition costs, but it's also a chance for student-athletes to show their appreciation to other students for supporting them throughout the year," said Carroll.

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Women's Volleyball

The Pandas (8-4) scored two convincing straight-set wins over the Regina Cougars (6-6) on the road over the weekend. They won 25-11, 25-12 and 25-16 on Friday, then 25-17, 25-18 and 25-19 on Saturday.

### Men's Hockey

The Golden Bears (16-1-1) saw their 16-game winning streak come to an end on Saturday with a 3-3 tie in Calgary against the Dinos (6-7-3). The Bears were up 3-0 heading into Saturday's third period, but the Dinos rallied for the draw. A night earlier, the Bears beat the Dinos 6-1. Alberta is now unbeaten in 44 straight games against Calgary (38-0-6).

### Women's Hockey

The Saskatchewan Huskies (3-8-1) put up a fight against the Pandas (12-0-0) when they visited Clare Drake Arena in November, but they fared significantly less well at home over the weekend. The Pandas earned two shut-out victories, 4-0 on Friday and 10-0 on Saturday. Ten different Pandas scored in the series.

### Ringette

The University of Alberta Ringette Club won silver at the University Challenge Cup last week in Winnipeg. They placed first in the round robin with five wins and one tie, including their first-ever win over Calgary, but lost to Calgary 1-1 in the gold medal game.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS



### Poll Clerks (100 needed)

- Work part time on four voting days (March 9, 10, 23, 24)
- Set up, supervise, and take down polling stations
- Wage: \$7.00 per hour
- Application deadline: February 7, 2005

### Poll Captains (4 needed)

- Work part time (as required) from Reading Week to March 24
- Supervise candidates, enforce election regulations, assist Returning Officers and poll clerks on voting days
- Wage: \$8.00 per hour
- Application deadline: January 31, 2005

Application forms are available at the SU Information Booth in SUB and at 2-900 SUB.

If you would like to review all Students' Union job postings, they can be found at this website: [www.ualberta.ca/work/updates](http://www.ualberta.ca/work/updates)



gateway student journalism society

## CALLING ALL GATEWAY VOLUNTEERS!

## IMPORTANT MEETING THIS FRIDAY

## Volunteer Representative Required for the GSJS Board of Directors

All members of the Gateway Student Journalism Society (any individual with 3 or more submissions in the last 240 days) are requested to attend a meeting on Friday, 14 January at 5pm in the Gateway Offices (SUB 3-04) to participate in the election from accepted nominations of a new Volunteer representative to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors.

## VARSITY STATS

### Women's Hockey

#### Canada West standings

Team	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Alberta	12	12	0	0	73	9	24
Regina	10	5	4	1	35	28	11
UBC	12	4	6	2	22	40	10
Lethbridge	12	3	6	3	27	41	9
Manitoba	10	3	6	1	20	35	7
Saskatchewan	12	3	8	1	25	49	7

#### Results

Friday	
Lethbridge 2 UBC 1	
Alberta 4 Saskatchewan 0	
Saturday	
Lethbridge 0 UBC 3	
Alberta 10 Saskatchewan 0	

#### CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1) 6. Concordia (6)
2. Laurier (2) 7. Regina (7)
3. SFPU (4) 8. McGill (10)
4. Guelph (8) 9. Toronto (8)
5. Ottawa (4) 10. Brock (8)

### Men's Hockey

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Alberta	18	16	1	1	89	32	33
Calgary	16	6	7	3	27	45	15
UBC	18	2	12	4	46	84	8
Lethbridge	18	2	15	1	44	104	5

#### Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Saskatchewan	18	13	3	2	79	40	28
Manitoba	18	10	5	3	67	45	23
Regina	18	5	11	2	47	70	12

#### Results

Friday	
Alberta 6 Calgary 1	
UBC 3 Lethbridge 0	
Saskatchewan 0 Manitoba 6	
Saturday	
Alberta 3 Calgary 3	
UBC 5 Lethbridge 2	
Saskatchewan 3 Manitoba 3	

#### CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1) 6. Manitoba (5)
2. Saskatchewan (2) 7. Moncton (7)
3. Lakehead (3) 8. PEI (8)
4. Western (4) 9. UOIT (9)
5. Saint Mary's (6) 10. McGill (10)

### Women's Volleyball

#### Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	L	P
Calgary	12	12	0	36	10	24
UBC	12	10	2	31	10	20
Winnipeg	12	10	2	32	12	20
Alberta	12	8	4	29	14	16
Regina	12	6	6	19	20	12
TWU	10	3	7	17	26	6
Manitoba	10	2	8	8	24	4
Saskatchewan	12	1	11	6	35	2
Simon Fraser	12	0	12	9	36	0

#### Results

Friday	
Winnipeg 3 Simon Fraser 0	
UBC 0 Calgary 3	
Trinity Western 2 Saskatchewan 2	
Alberta 3 Regina 0	
Saturday	
Winnipeg 3 Simon Fraser 1	
UBC 1 Calgary 3	
Trinity Western 2 Saskatchewan 3	
Alberta 3 Regina 0	

### Women's Basketball

#### Canada West standings

Team	G	W	L	F	A	P
Simon Fraser	10	10	0	757	481	20
Winnipeg	10	10	0	744	539	20
UBC	10	6	4	638	538	12
Manitoba	10	6	4	778	679	12
Victoria	10	6	4	607	574	12
Saskatchewan	10	5	5	708	669	10
Regina	10	5	5	607	614	10
Calgary	10	5	5	608	626	10
Alberta	10	4	6	672	736	8
Lethbridge	10	2	8	657	749	4
Trinity Western	10	1	9	543	715	2
Brandon	10	0	10	388	797	0

#### Results

Thursday	
SFU 77 Trinity Western 61	
Friday	
Regina 66 Victoria 74	
Brandon 25 UBC 19	
Saskatchewan 79 Alberta 83	
Lethbridge 59 Winnipeg 77	
Calgary 59 Manitoba 80	
Saturday	
SFU 65 Trinity Western 40	
Saskatchewan 73 Alberta 79	
Lethbridge 59 Manitoba 75	
Calgary 55 Winnipeg 69	
Brandon 35 Victoria 81	
Sunday	
Regina 64 UBC 57	

### Men's Basketball

#### Canada West standings

Team	G	W	L	F	A	P
Calgary	10	6	4	779	711	12
Saskatchewan	10	6	4	805	775	12
Alberta	10	6	4	724	721	12
Lethbridge	10	4	6	718	798	4
Pacific Division						
Team	G	W	L	F	A	P
Victoria	10	8	2	730	679	16
UBC	10	6	4	757	661	12
Trinity Western	10	4	6	722	793	8
Simon Fraser	10	3	7	742	762	6

#### Great Plains Division

Team	G	W	L	F	A	P
Brandon	10	8	2	799	715	16
Regina	10	5	5	795	801	10
Manitoba	10	4	6	683	772	8
Lethbridge	10	2	8	798	849	4

#### Results

Thursday	
SFU 66 Trinity Western 79	
Friday	
Regina 70 Victoria 80	
Saskatchewan 73 UBC 70	
Saskatchewan 67 Alberta 62	
Lethbridge 94 Winnipeg 85	
Calgary 83 Manitoba 54	
Saturday	
SFU 90 Trinity Western 89	
Saskatchewan 73 Alberta 87	
Lethbridge 75 Manitoba 80	
Calgary 74 Winnipeg 78	
Brandon 59 Victoria 62	
Sunday	
Regina 71 UBC 102	

### Men's Volleyball

#### Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	L	P
Alberta	10	9	1	29	8	18
Saskatchewan	10	7	3	26	13	14
Trinity Western	10	7	3	25	17	14
UBC	10	6	4	22	16	12
Manitoba	10	4	6	17	20	8
Winnipeg	10	4	6	17	22	8
Regina	10	3	7	10	24	6
Lethbridge	10	0	10	4	30	0

#### Results

Friday	
Trinity Western 3 Saskatchewan 2	
Saturday	
Trinity Western 3 Saskatchewan 1	
UBC 0 Manitoba 1	
Sunday	
UBC 3 Manitoba 1	

Eat a donut  
naked.  
You'll  
weigh less.



Main Floor SUB



## CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please go to [www.campusclassifieds.ca](http://www.campusclassifieds.ca)

## FOR RENT

Stop paying rent. Become a Home Owner. FREE list of homes available with no money down, under \$90/month. FREE recorded message. 1-866-819-9646 (Toll-free). Donna Strauss, Sutton Challenge.

Want 2 clean roommates for a large condo. Great location next to Riverbend Square and bus route. NS, no pets, 15 min from U of A. Include W/D/W, rent \$300/month plus share of utility. Call 490-6173.

CHÉP! Available 1 Feb 2-bedroom basement suite. Walking dist to U of A. \$475/month. Well kept. Call (403) 350-7893.

Roommate wanted to share house close to U of A. Female preferred. \$450+12 utilities. 481-8731 or 868-4330.

Parking spots, 2-minute walk from Law building, \$200 (\$50/month) till the end of April. Call Dirk at 995-3475 and leave a message.

Brand new beautiful two-bedroom, two-bathroom condo in the Bonaville. Close to Belvedere station. \$300 per month (shared). Includes all utilities and condo fees. (403) 443-2803. rmcneely@telus.net.

Parking Spots for Rent 5-min walk from campus. \$50/month Power available. Nathan 439-3793.

## FOR SALE

1994 Dodge Colt, 1350 oodkm, 6-disc CD player, minor damage to front fender, \$650, phone 430-3597.

NAD Integrated Amplifier 310 stats. [http://lcr228.228.231/info/NAD\\_310.pdf](http://lcr228.228.231/info/NAD_310.pdf).

## WANTED

Mature, quiet, clean, non-smoking roommate

for a 2-bedroom highrise condo close to U of A and Whyte ave. Rent \$550/month. Call 966-7271 if interested.

Roommate wanted to share west-end home by Westmount mall with professionally employed male. Must be neat, honest, and easy-going. Bedroom is newly painted with dark hardwood floors. \$500 per month plus half utilities. Call Stu 708-6691.

## SERVICES

EDITING SERVICES: From a client: "Thank you so much for your outstanding work on my paper. Your changes blew my mind! I LOVE ALL OF THEM! You helped me so much, not only writing beautifully but foremost, to believe in myself." 403-244-1943 [www.ptoediting.com](http://www.ptoediting.com). Learn to paint the figure. Drop-in classes and workshops. Please call Tessa Nunn at 461-1028 to register and visit [www.tessanunn.com](http://www.tessanunn.com) for a full winter schedule.

PC, phone, call worldwide. 100% Secure for \$5/mth. Save and earn while calling unlimited worldwide 24/7! Ref code student: Carl 780-476-4798.

Ski and snowboard reading week tour to Fernie. Ski/ride Fernie and Centre Mtn. 21-24 Feb packages starting at \$289. Call today 489-7669!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET OUT!—women's coming out group. Lesbian? Bisexual? Unsure? Questioning? Get Out and connect with other women coming out. Discovering that you might be is a revelation. Accepting it is a process. Get support, information and meet new people in a safe, confidential environment. For more information, please contact Joanne at 488-3234.

Want to study MEDICINE in Europe? [www.medical-school.ca/canadim@medical-school.ca](http://www.medical-school.ca/canadim@medical-school.ca)

Introductory Sign Language Course offered—12 evenings. Runs Thursdays 6:30pm to 9:30pm from 20 Jan to 4 Apr.

For information call 492-3381. Specialized support and disability services.

## EMPLOYMENT—FULL-TIME

College/University students holiday help \$14.85 base appt. Special 1-5 week semester break work program. Flex schedules. Start now or after final! Possible extensions! Secured summer position. Conditions apply. Customer sales and service. Call now! North: 497-7701 South: 499-7902.

## EMPLOYMENT—PART-TIME

2-3 PT or 1 FT Technical support positions available. The job is on campus and has flexible hours. Strong knowledge of OS X is essential; Unix admin and Win admin experience an asset. Good interpersonal skills also required. Minimum \$11/hr. Job runs through the end of April with the possibility of extension through the summer (FT) and into next year. This is an excellent job for students or recent graduates, providing good experience and a varied workload. Please send resumes and references to [jobs@whitematter.ca](mailto:jobs@whitematter.ca). Application deadline is 12 noon, 15 January.

Child care workers required by non-profit school-age child-care program. Southwest locations in London, Malmo and St. Stanislaus schools. Available shifts 7am to 6:30am and 2:30pm to 6pm. Possibly more hours. Phone Dorothy or Shari at 435-4532.

Professional brand representatives contract work. 5p-5:50 hr. Fri/Sat 12pm-6pm. Generate fun and exciting interactions between consumers and yourself through product sampling and demonstrations. Increase awareness of specific brands. Must have an English, people skills. Be motivated and enthusiastic. Reliable transportation. Knowledgeable in food safety and hygiene. Great intro to marketing and advertising sector experience and resume builder. Please apply to: P & C Marketing Services. [www.pcmarketing.ca](http://www.pcmarketing.ca) follow links or call 417-3647 Bv.

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required \$8-9/hr. Various positions available throughout the city. E-mail resume to [office@hughestoprotem.com](mailto:office@hughestoprotem.com).

Lifeguard/Instructor positions. Daytime/evening/weekend shifts available. Must be 18 years old and hold current NLS WSLBC AEC or standard first aid. Contact Serena Bushell. Ph 496-8758 or e-mail [serena@parkandrecplus.com](mailto:serena@parkandrecplus.com).

PT weekend and weekend care aide needed for Fquad. Southgate area. \$10/hr. Call Marrie 485-5493.

Got an hour? Be an In-School Mentor! You can be matched with an elementary student in your choice of one of 50 Catholic and public schools in Edmonton, Parkland and Strathcona. Together you can read, keep a journal, play computer games or just hang out. You'll have a great time... and it looks GREAT on your resume! Call Big Brothers Big Sisters today at 424-8181 or check us out online at [www.bbbsedmonton.org](http://www.bbbsedmonton.org).

## PERSONALS

It's Party Time! Dial 44-PARTYDAYS "Jokes" Stories & MORE! Ladies-R-Free! Try It NOW! 18+.

## LINES OF DAN'S DRIVE

Well, my holidays were pretty good. I played a lot of videogames. I sort of refer to the whole two months between 9 November (the 2 release) and 1 January (last day of holidays) as the "Long Christmas" where I spent way too much time playing videogames. First was Halo 2, then Metal Gear Solid 2, then Knights of the Old Republic 2, then Prince of Persia 2, then Metroid Prime 2, then Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas.

Having a portable music player totally changes your life. You're all the time making excuses to take walks and stuff even though it's like minus 100 out.

As an impulse purchase I bought Gargoyles Season 1 over the Christmas break. When watching old cartoons your memories are either destroyed or enhanced. Enhanced in this case it seems.

## HAPPY BOB KNOWS

Campus events and more...

**Centre for Health Promotion Studies presents** Smoke-free Homes and Venues: opportunities and challenges on Friday, 14 January from 10:30am to 11:30am in 2F104 WC, MacKenzie Health Sciences Complex. Dr Roberta Ferrence, Director, Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, will present the seminar. Everyone welcome. No registration required. For more information, please contact Donna Richardson at 492-1386 or visit <http://www.chps.uaberta.ca>.

**Centre for Health Promotion Studies and Capital Health presents** research with key stakeholders on crystal meth and action strategies to increase community safety on Tuesday 18 January from 12pm to 1pm in Classroom D, 2F104 WC, MacKenzie Health Sciences Complex. Cam Wild, Ann Goldblatt and Kate Gurn will provide a panel presentation. For more information, please contact Donna Richardson at 492-1386 or visit <http://www.chps.uaberta.ca>.

HBK is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. Events must be free. HBK is only printed in the Tuesday editions of the Gateway. HBK does not publish events that are weekly, on-going, or not open to the public. Submissions will print for one issue only. The Gateway Student Journalism Society does not endorse events listed in HBK. To put an entry into HBK please go to [www.gateway.uaberta.ca/hbk](http://www.gateway.uaberta.ca/hbk). For more info please contact [production@gateway.uaberta.ca](mailto:production@gateway.uaberta.ca).

**CAUTION: 25c HI-BALLS**  
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**UNION HALL**  
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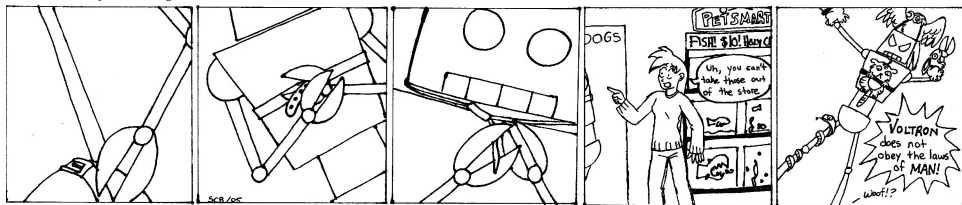
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*Come visit Calgary!*  
The Department of Neuroscience at the University of Calgary is hosting a fourth **National Neuroscience Competition**. Top applicants will fly all-expenses-paid to Calgary to tour the facilities and visit with prospective graduate supervisors March 9-13 2005.  
Details:  
<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~neuro/recruit.html>  
See you in Calgary!

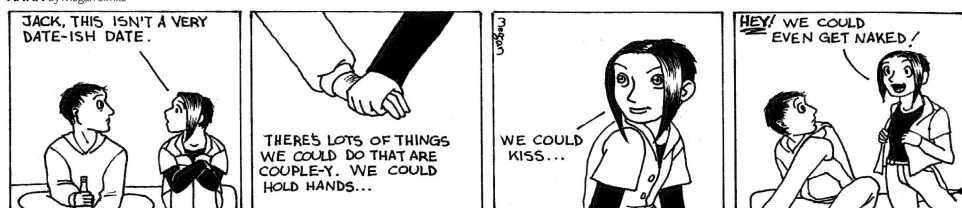
## HALEY'S COMIX by Mike Robertson



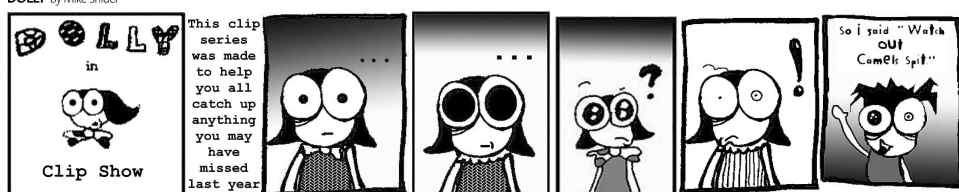
## LOGIC PUZZLE by Scott C Bourgeois and James Elford



## ANNA by Megan Simko



## DOLLY by Mike Snider



## MOSHPIIT HEROES by Amber and Allison Chipman



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